MARVEL
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APR
The West Coast Avengers
HENRY PYM--
TORN BETWEEN
TWO ULTRONS!
CAN EVEN WONDER MAN SAVE HIM?

STAN LEE PRESENTS

The WEST COAST AVENGERS

U, ROBOT!

STEVE ENGLEHART — SCRIPT
AL MILGROM — LAYOUTS
JOE SINNOTT — ART
JANICE CHIANG — LETTERS
KEN FEDUNIEWICZ — COLORS
MARK GRUENWALD — EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER - CHIEF

WHOA! WHAT THE HECK IS THIS--?

THIS--IS TERROR...

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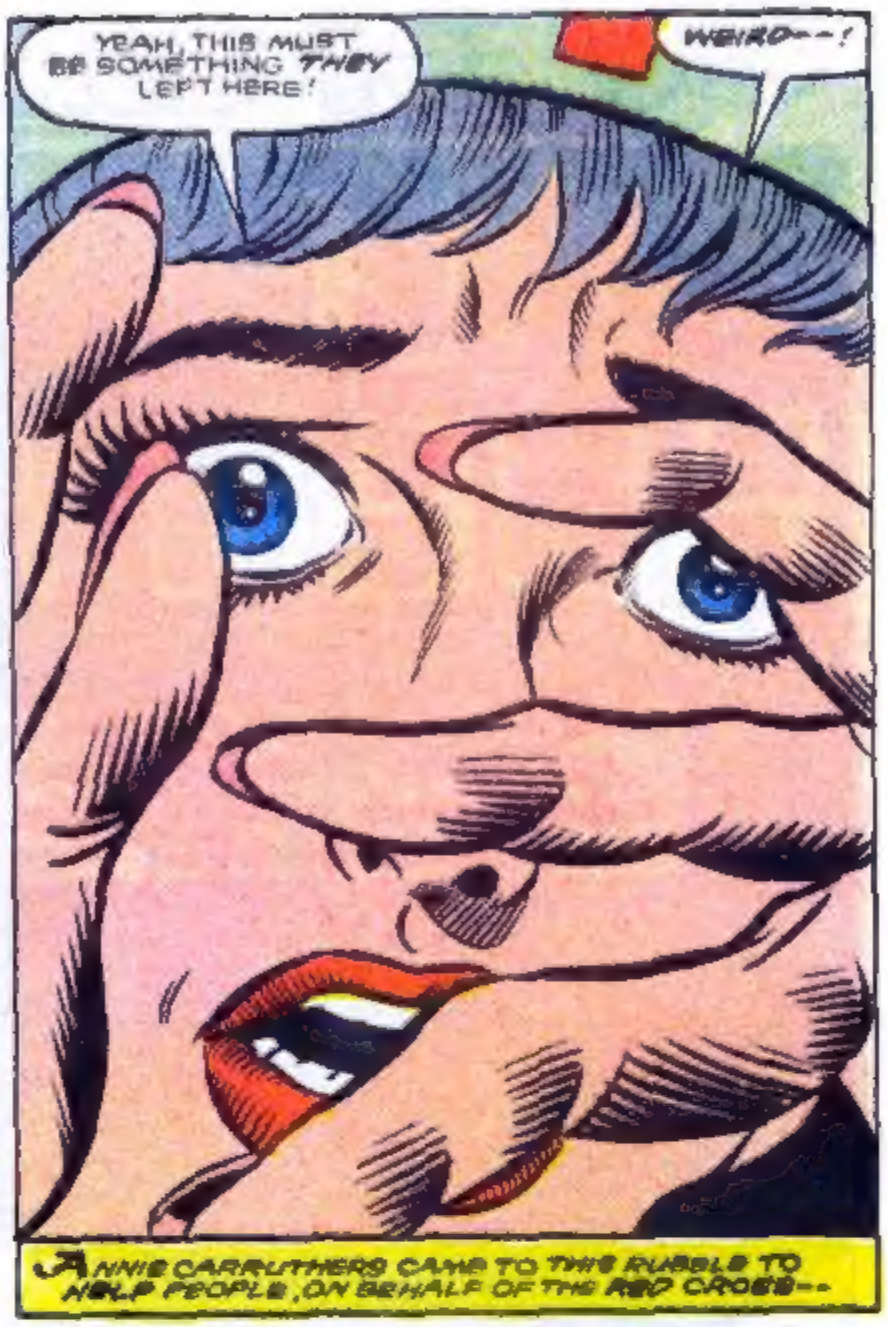
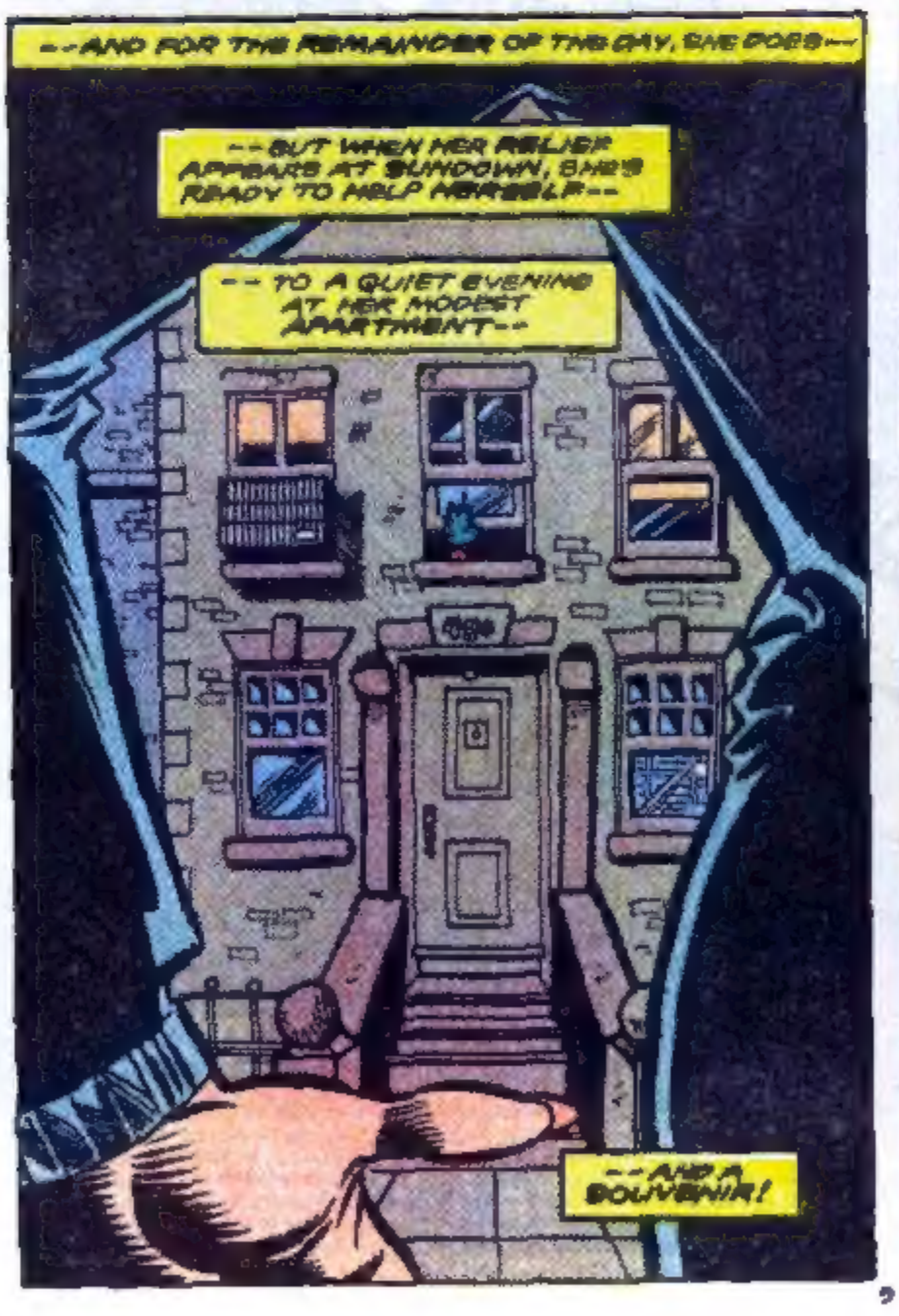
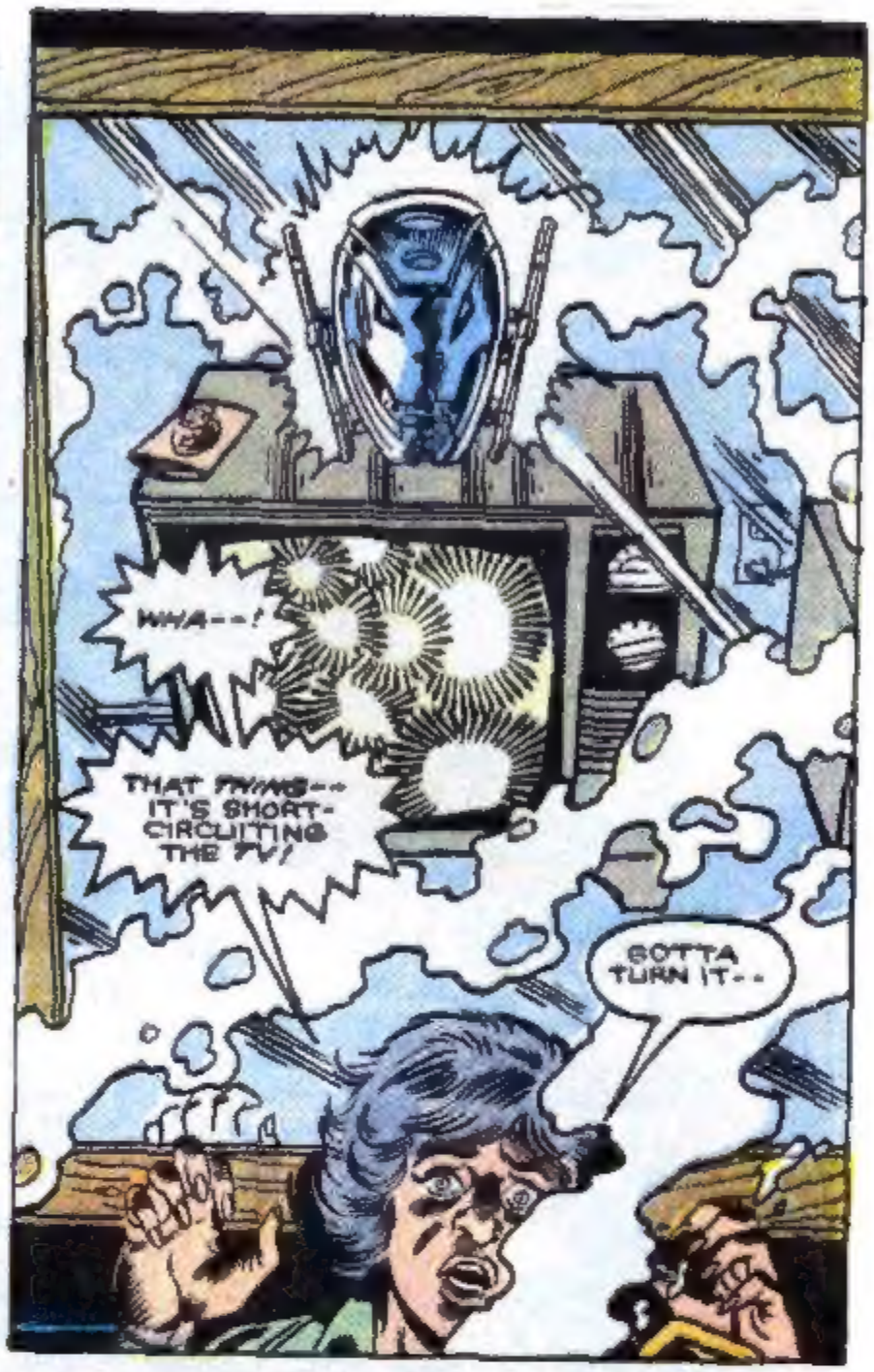
BOY, THAT FANTASTIC POLE! YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHAT YOU'LL FIND AFTER ONE OF THEIR BATTLES!
THE THING AND THE TORCH WERE ACTUALLY INSIDE THIS BUILDING WHEN IT COLLAPSED--NOT THAT THAT BOTHERED THEM!

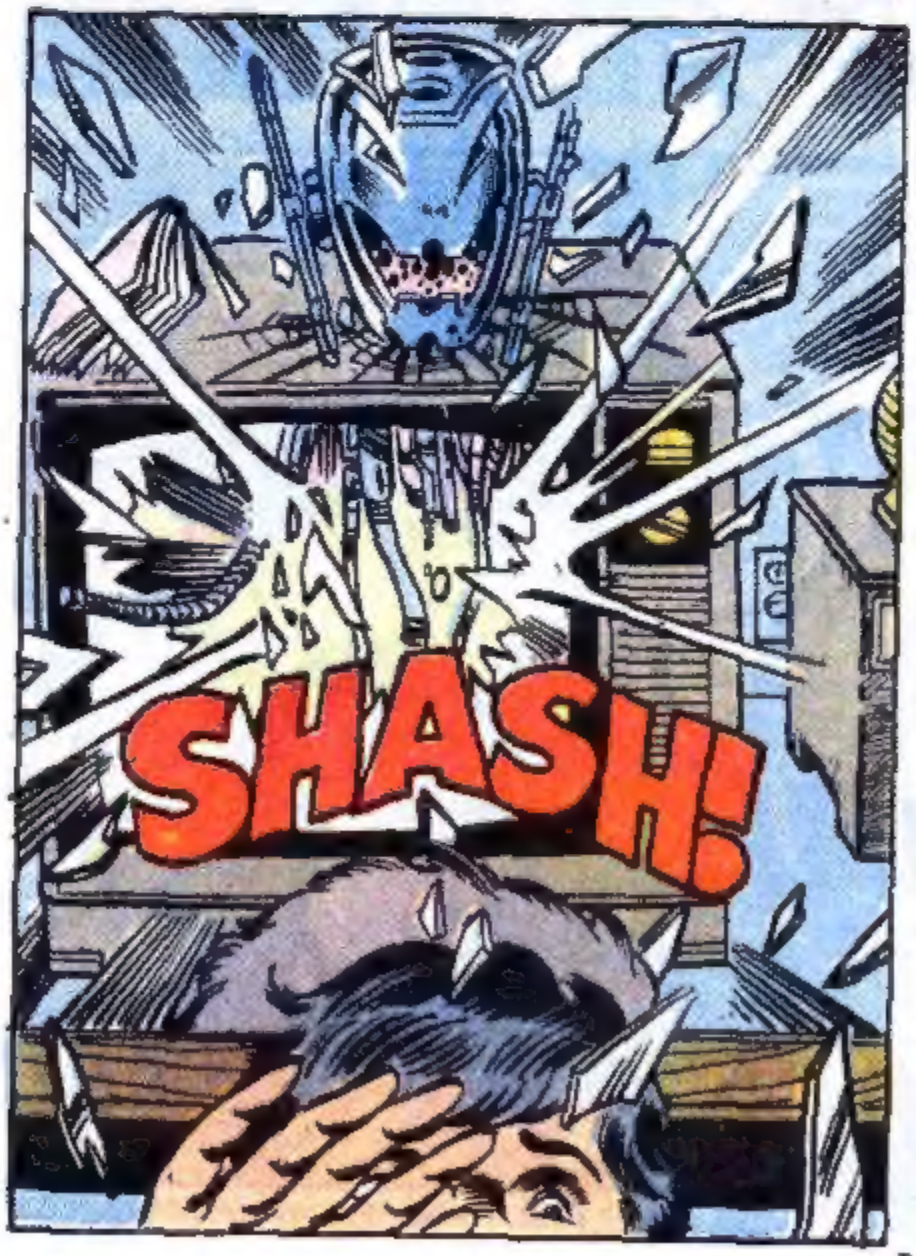

YEAH, THIS MUST BE SOMETHING THEY LEFT HERE!
WEIRD--!
ANNIE CARRUTHERS CAME TO THIS RUBBLE TO HELP PEOPLE, ON BEHALF OF THE RED CROSS--


--AND FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY, SHE DOES--
--BUT WHEN HER RELIEF APPEARS AT SUNDOWN, SHE'S READY TO HELP HERSELF--
--TO A QUIET EVENING AT HER MODEST APARTMENT--
--AND A SOUVENIR!

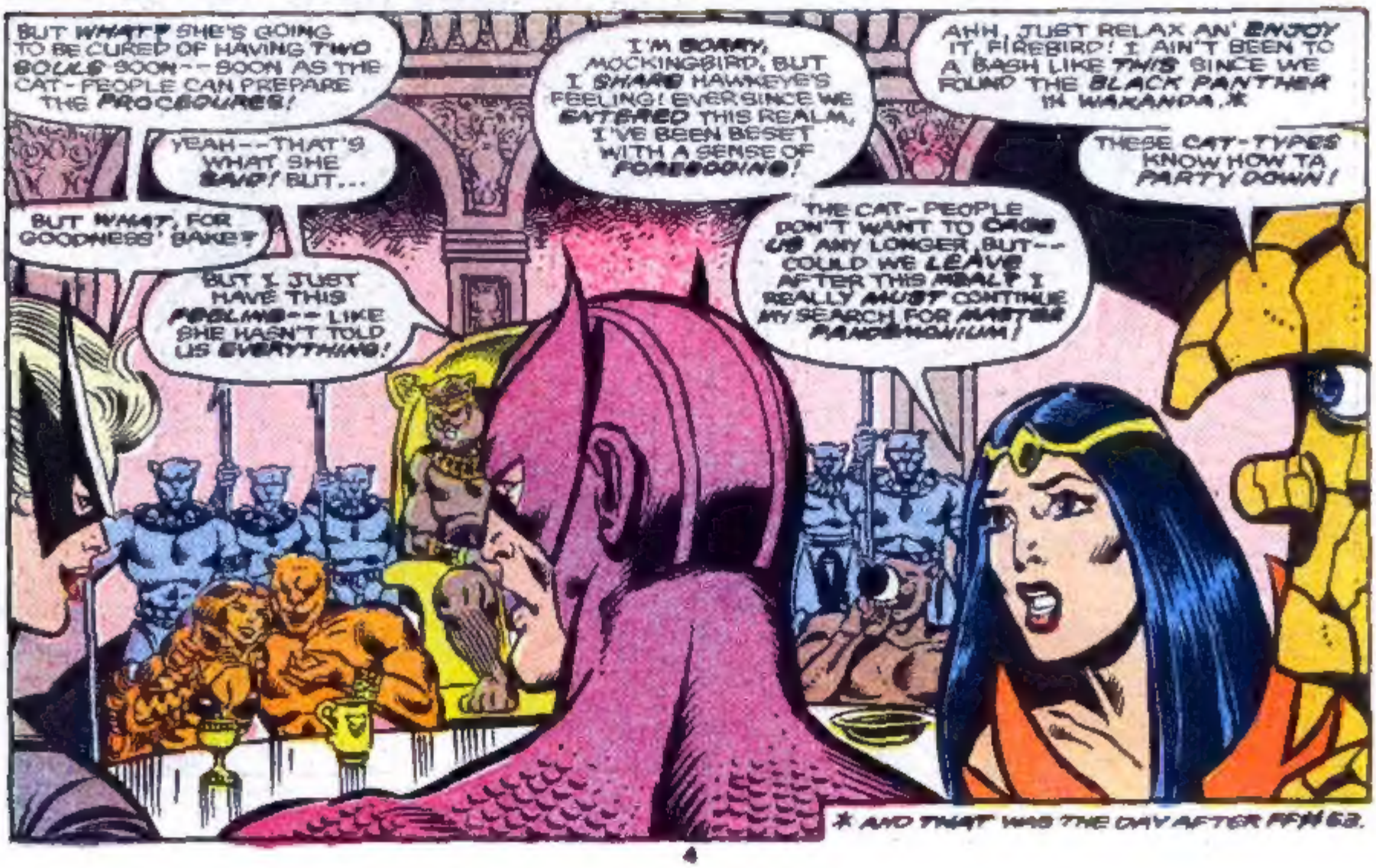
ANNIE'S A COLLECTOR--A TYPE MOST COMIC READERS KNOW WELL...
GEE-- THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT TO PUT THIS THING!
WELL, THE TOP OF THE TV WILL HAVE TO DO TILL I CLEAR SOMETHING ELSE AWAY!
ANNIE BREWS HERSELF SOME HERBAL TEA--

--AND KICKS BACK FOR A WELL-DESERVED REST!
HEE HEE HEE THAT BILL COSBY! HE SURE KNOWS HOW FAMILIES WORK!
NOT THAT I'VE GOT ANY EXPERIENCE THERE! SINCE GREG MOVED TO BOSTON, IT'S BEEN CELIBATE-CITY AROUND--


WHA--!
THAT THING-- IT'S SHORT-CIRCUITING THE TV!
GOTTA TURN IT--


SHASH!

OH, MY!
OH... MY...
"WHAT YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED TOOK PLACE IN THE RECENT PAST... THE DAY AFTER FANTASTIC FOUR #267--!



* AND THAT WAS THE DAY AFTER FFH 62.

SO YOU SEE-- WE KNOW ALL THE FUN PEOPLE, AND WE GO TO ALL THE FUN PLACES! AND IF YOU STICK AROUND, IT'LL GET EVEN BETTER!

LISTEN! THIS IS A NATURAL! THE SHE-HULK'S AN AVENGER, BUT SHE JOINED THE FF! HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO EVEN THINGS UP!

I KNEW IT-- YOU NEVER QUIT TRYIN'! YOU'RE EVEN WORSE THAN I WUZ ON MY FOURTH DATE WITH BETTY LOU GRINDIG!

IF I WERE YOU, COCKEYE, I WOULDN'T MENTION THE FF TA ME THESE DAYS! IT DON'T HELP YOUR CAUSE!

THE THING-- IT'S ALWAYS HIM THEY WANT! WHILE I SIT BESIDE THEM, FIGHT BESIDE THEM-- AND AM NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED FOR THEIR SIXTH MEMBERSHIP!

MUST IT BE MY LOT TO SUFFER IN SILENCE--!

I DON'T WANNA MAKE A BIG DEAL OUTTA IT, BUT I'D JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM THE PLANET O' THE SECRET WARS WITH ULTRON'S HEAD WHEN I DROPPED BY MY GIRL'S AN'--

WAIT A MINUTE! DID YOU SAY-- ULTRON'S HEAD?

I DIDN'T SAY HIS FOOT!

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT HEAD, BEN?

WELL, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I GUESS I LEFT IT IN THE RUBBLE OF ALICIA'S BUILDING AFTER THE DIRE WRAITHS TRASHED IT!

BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT! SEE--

BEN--WE FOUGHT A FULLY-EQUIPPED ULTRON VERY RECENTLY!*

*WCA #162 AND VISION/WITCH #1&2.

YA DID WHAT? YA MEAN HE'S BEEN REBORN?

BUT I WUZ SURE HE WUZ DEAD, OR I WOULD NEVER'A BROUGHT 'IM BACK-- OR FORGOTTEN ABOUT 'IM--

DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT, BIG GUY-- WE CHASED 'IM OFF WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS, JUST LIKE WE ALWAYS HAVE! THAT'S WHAT AVENGERS ARE FOR--

MAYBE YOU SHOULD JOIN UP 'CAUSE YOU NEED OUR HELP...!

WELL, WE'VE BEEN THE THING PUT HIS FIST THROUGH A TABLE BEFORE, SO LET'S LOOK BACK AT THE "LAND WITHOUT"-- THE WORLD YOU AND I LIVE IN, ALONG WITH HANK PYM...

SPOOKY PLACE THIS WAREHOUSE DISTRICT--! NEW YORK'S WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITE SPOTS, WITH IT'S 30'S ATMOSPHERE, BUT L.A. 9 IS JUST ANOTHER SPRAWL, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT THE ETERNAL SUNSHINE...

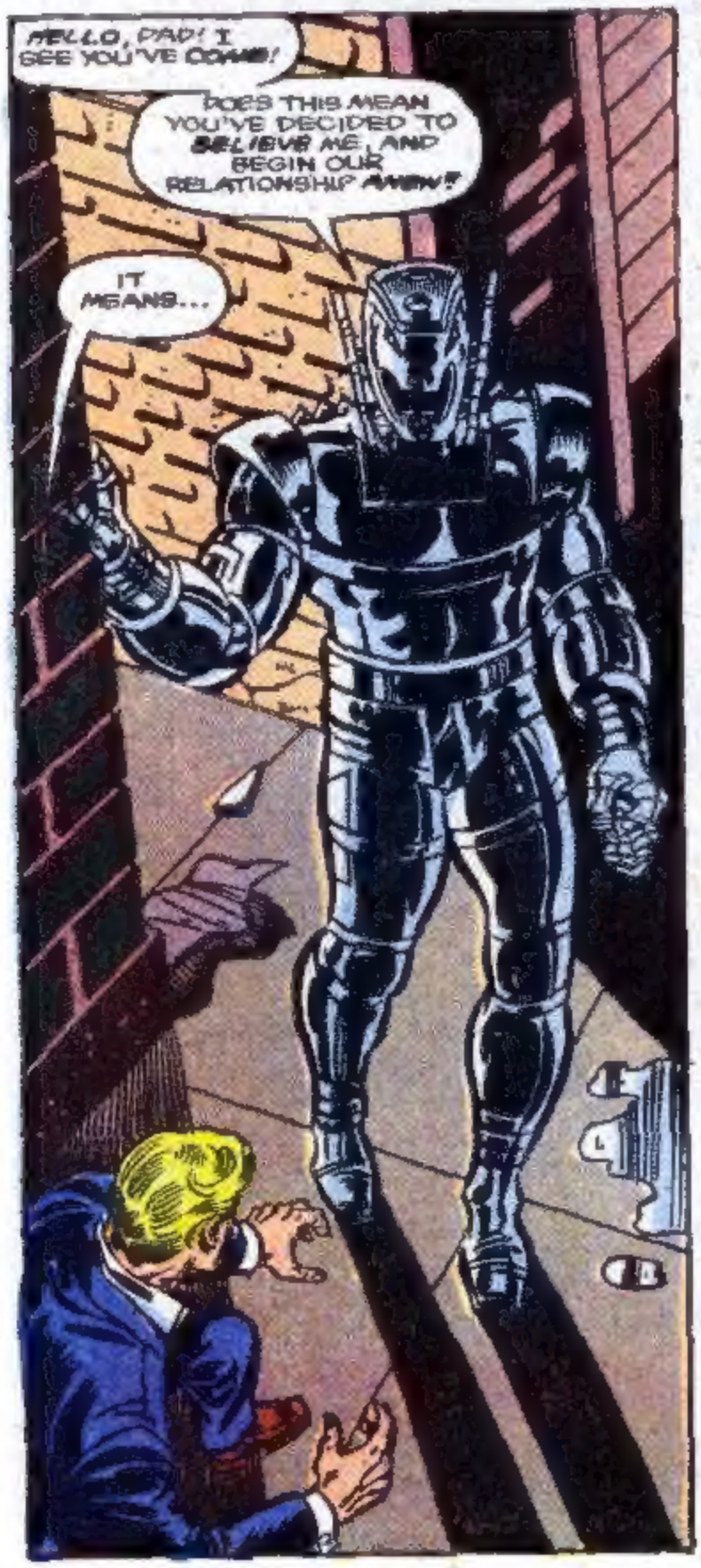
QUIT BABBLING, HANK! IT'S NOT THE WAREHOUSES THAT ARE MAKING YOU NERVOUS--

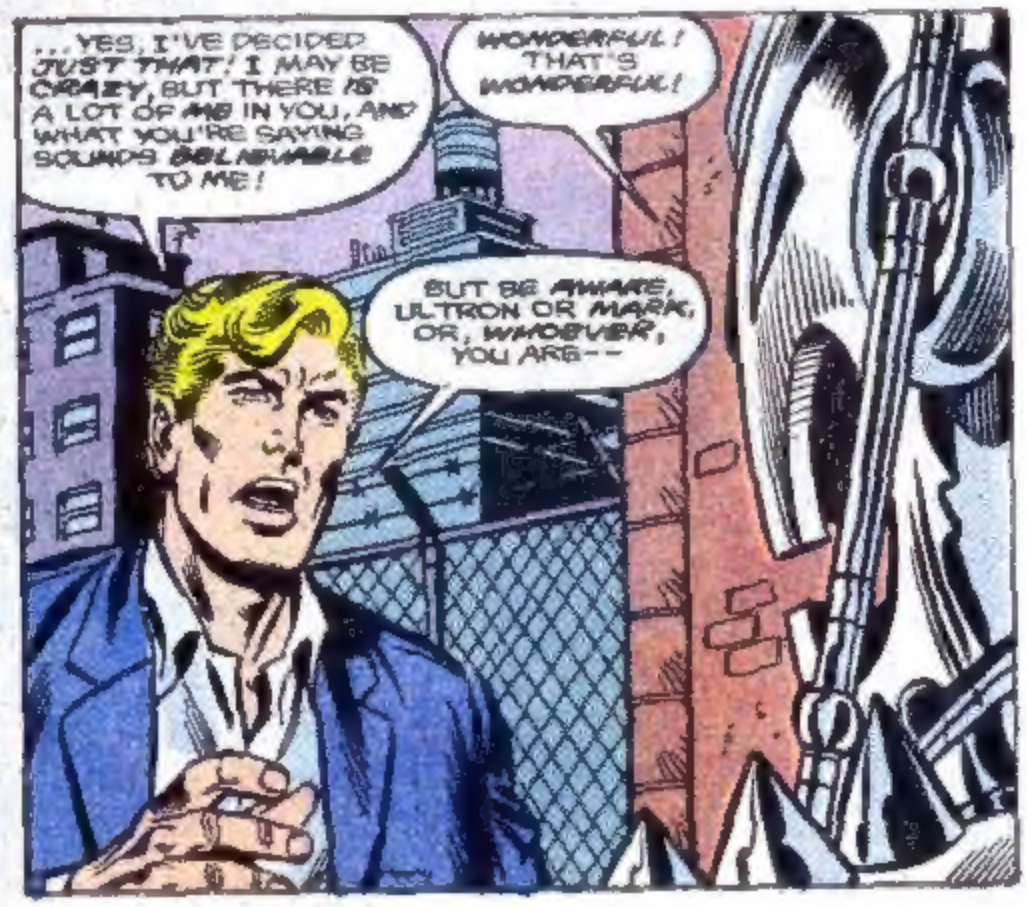
--IT'S ULTRON!

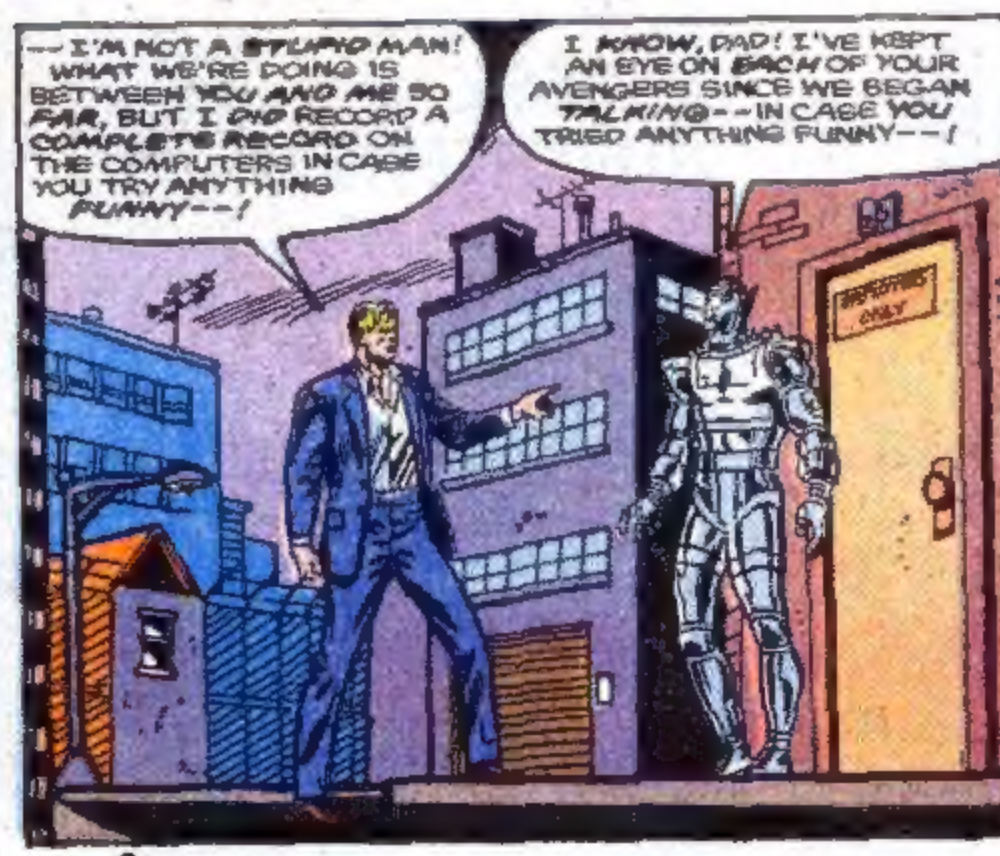
HE SAYS HE'S REFORMED-- THAT THE HATRED HE HAD TOWARD ME AS HIS "FATHER" HAS VANISHED SINCE HE EVOLVED INTO ULTRON MARK TWELVE, A MORE "HUMANIZED" MODEL--*

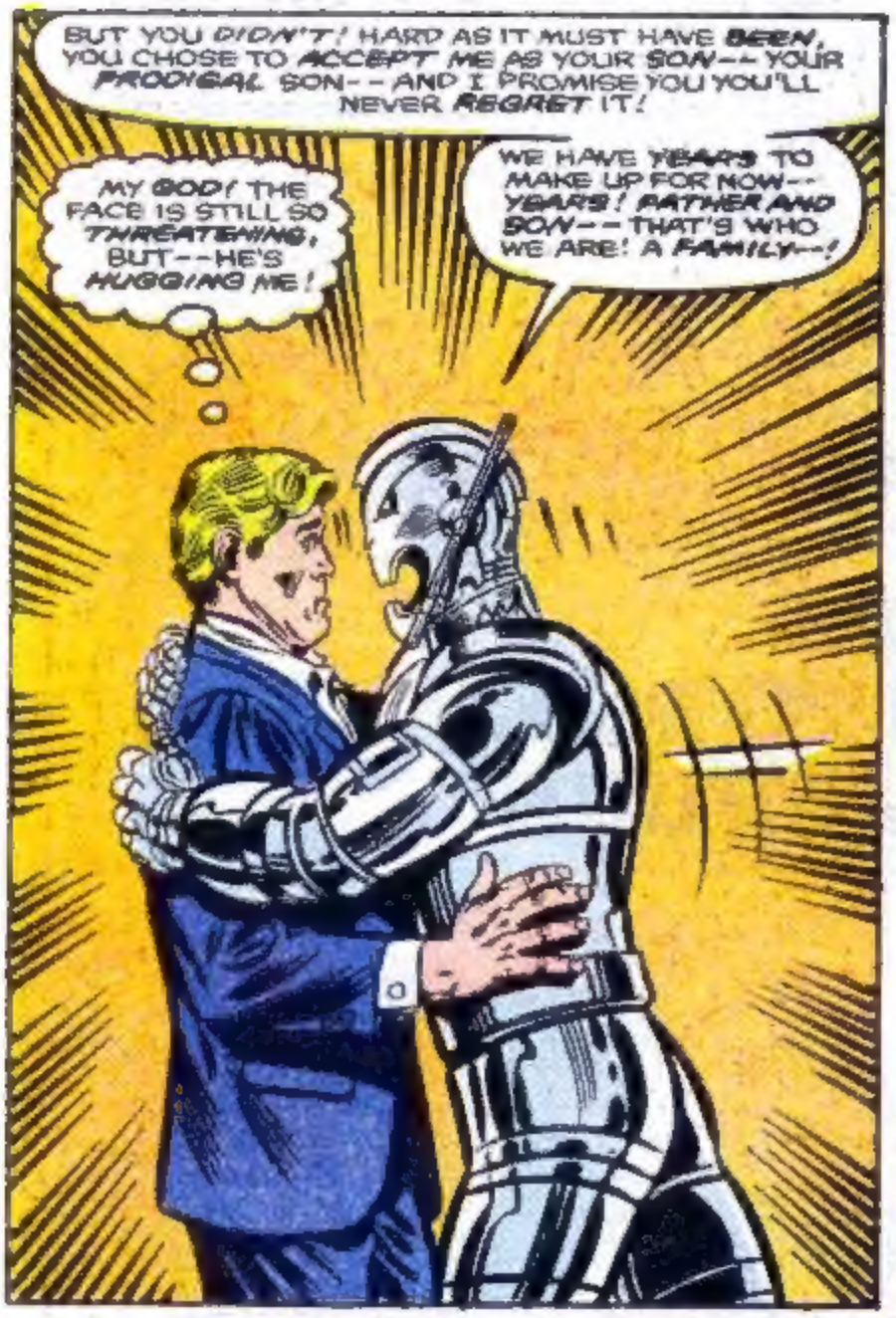
--BUT HE COULD WIN THE MISS AMERICA PAGEANT AND I'D STILL BE LEERY OF MEETING HIM IN A DARK AND EMPTY--

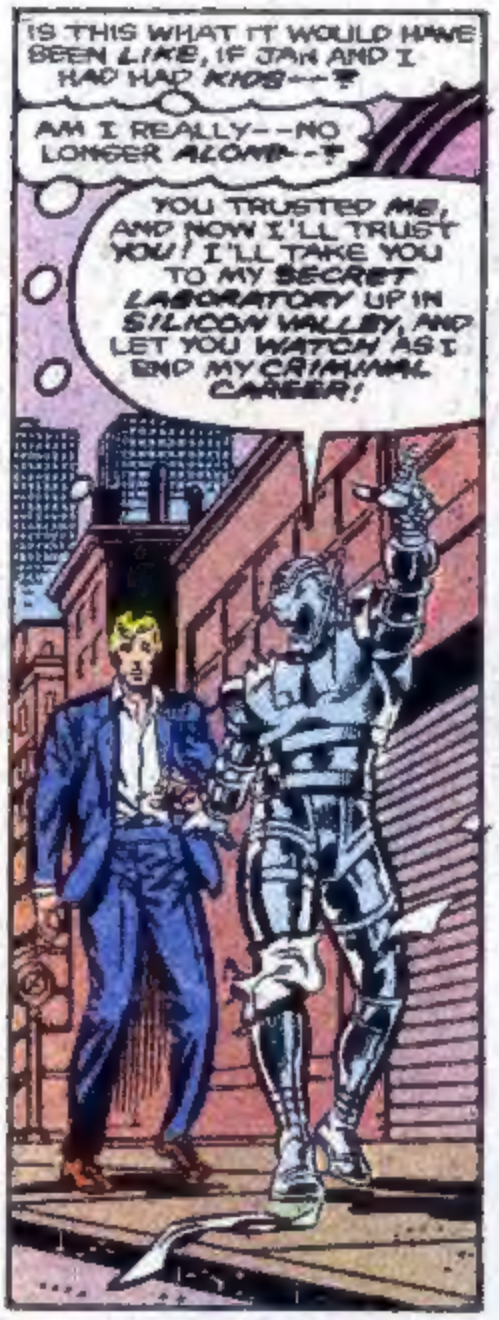
* LAST ISSUE.








BUT YOU DIDN'T! HARD AS IT MUST HAVE BEEN, YOU CHOSE TO ACCEPT ME AS YOUR SON-- YOUR PRODIGAL SON-- AND I PROMISE YOU YOU'LL NEVER REGRET IT!
MY GOD! THE FACE IS STILL SO THREATENING, BUT--HE'S HUGGING ME!
WE HAVE YEARS TO MAKE UP FOR NOW-- YEARS! FATHER AND SON-- THAT'S WHO WE ARE! A FAMILY--!


IS THIS WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE, IF JAN AND I HAD HAD KIDS--?
AM I REALLY--NO LONGER ALONE--?
YOU TRUSTED ME, AND NOW I'LL TRUST YOU! I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY SECRET LABORATORY UP IN SILICON VALLEY, AND LET YOU WATCH AS I END MY CRIMINAL CAREER!

BELIEVE ME, DAD, YOU'VE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!
BELIEVE ME...

THAT WAS THE PRESENT--AND THIS, AGAIN, IS THE PAST...
GEE, WHY WOULD THE RED CROSS SEND ME ANYTHING, ALL THE WAY FROM NEW YORK?
FEED THE WORLD
LIVE AID '85
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME CRUDE ELEC--

--TRON...
...IC...
FEED THE WORLD
LIVE AID '85

IT'S JUST AFTER DINNER IN SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA; THE OVERBURDENED VALLEY FREEWAYS HAVE EMPTIED, AND THE TRIP ACROSS ROUTE 237 TO MILPITAS TAKES TEN MINUTES RATHER THAN NINETY...

YOU WILL DO AS I SAY, DAVID MENCONI--THE PRICE YOU MUST PAY FOR BECOMING SO WELL-KNOWN IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERS!

YOURS WAS THE FIRST NAME THAT CAME TO MIND, WHEN I FORCED ANNIE CARRUTHERS TO SHIP ME WEST...

NOW, LEFT ON PLUMERIA, AND INTO THE PARKING LOT--!

GOOD! NOW CARRY ME INSIDE--!

ULTIMATUM INC.

EXCELLENT! NO ONE HAS DISTURBED MY LABORATORY IN MY ABSENCE!

THE MAINFRAME LIGHTS YET GLOW WITH PRISTINE BEAUTY--THE EXPERIMENTAL BODIES LIE WHERE THEY FELL WHEN THE BEYONDER SNATCHED ME AWAY--!*

AND SO, DAVID MENCONI--

* DO WE REALLY HAVE TO TELL YOU WHERE?

--YOU WILL NOW ATTACH THIS HEAD TO SOMETHING MORE SATISFYING THAN A SEARS 19-INCH TELEVISION!

THEN YOU WILL LEAVE THIS BUILDING AND FORGET THAT YOU WERE EVER HERE!

THAT WAS THE PAST--

--AND THIS IS THE FINAL SHIFT FORWARD--!

YOU FLY WELL, DAD-- I TOLD YOU, I CAME TO ADMIRE YOUR STRENGTHS DURING THAT UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR WITH THE GRIM REAPER!

KNOWING WHAT I DO OF THE REASONS YOU... RELINQUISHED YOUR POSITION AS AN ACTIVE AVENGER, I MUST TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE MUCH MORE VIABLE THAN YOU GAVE YOURSELF CREDIT FOR!

THANKS... MARK! SHALL I CALL YOU MARK--?

PLEASE!

THANKS, MARK! I APPRECIATE ANY COMPLIMENT AFTER THAT DISASTER--

--BUT I'M NEVER GETTING BACK INTO UNIFORM, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE URGING! I'VE HAD IT WITH THE SUPERHERO LIFE!

WELL, RETIREMENT IS ALSO NICE! I'M RETIRING MYSELF, OF COURSE--AFTER HAVING TWELVE IDENTITIES--

ALSO, MOST OF MY OTHER IDENTITIES ARE ALL BEING USED BY OTHER PEOPLE THESE DAYS!

--THOUGH I MAY KEEP THIS LAB FOR COMPUTER EXPERIMENTATION!

IT'S AMAZING! MY EXPERIMENTS BROUGHT YOU INTO EXISTENCE--AND NOW YOU EXPERIMENT YOURSELF!

IT'S MERELY AN ANALOG TO THE HUMAN "FATHER-SON" RELATIONSHIP! WHO KNOWS-- IF I CREATE SOMETHING USEFUL, YOU MAY YET BECOME A "GODFATHER"!

BUT I MUST ASK YOU, FATHER--I HAVE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THIS SINCE MY FINAL EVOLUTION GAVE ME MY HUMAN SENSIBILITIES--

--DID MY DISRUPTIONS OF YOUR LIFE--MY ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE WASP A BASIS FOR JOCASTA--

--DID THOSE THINGS CAUSE YOUR DIVORCE? EVERY CHILD FEELS GUILTY WHEN HIS PARENTS SEPARATE, OF COURSE...

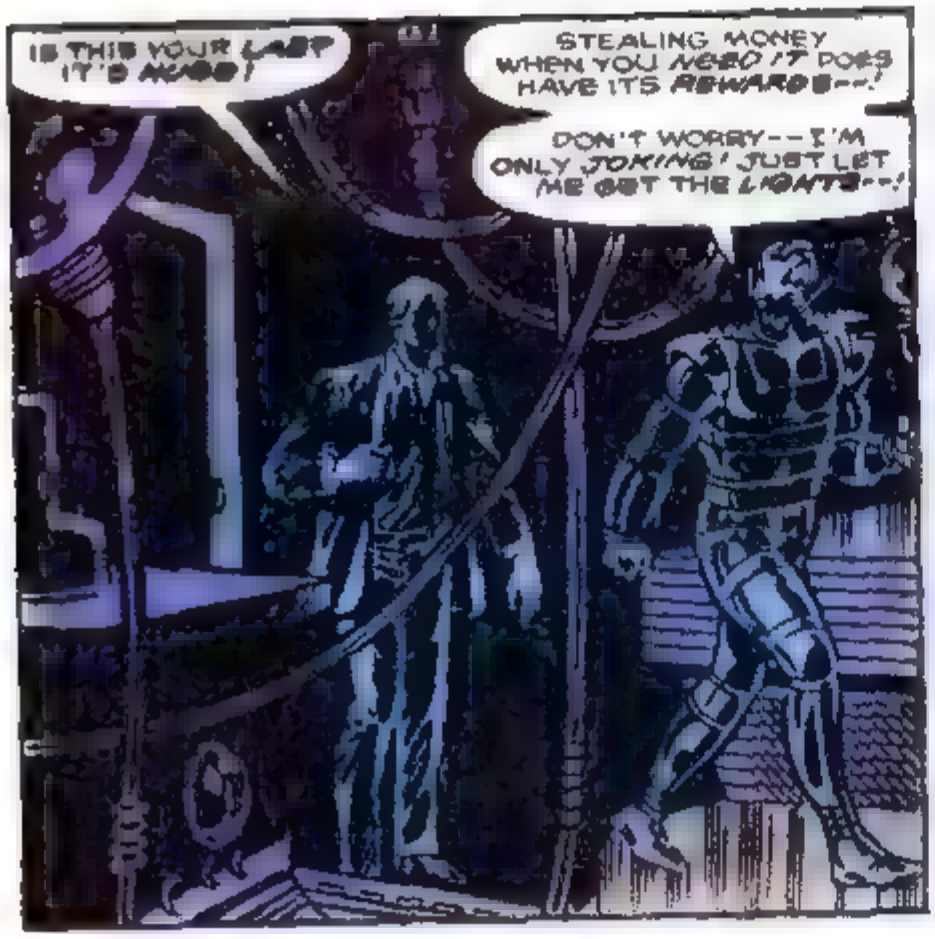
NO, MARK--I MANAGED TO DESTROY MY MARRIAGE ALL BY MYSELF!

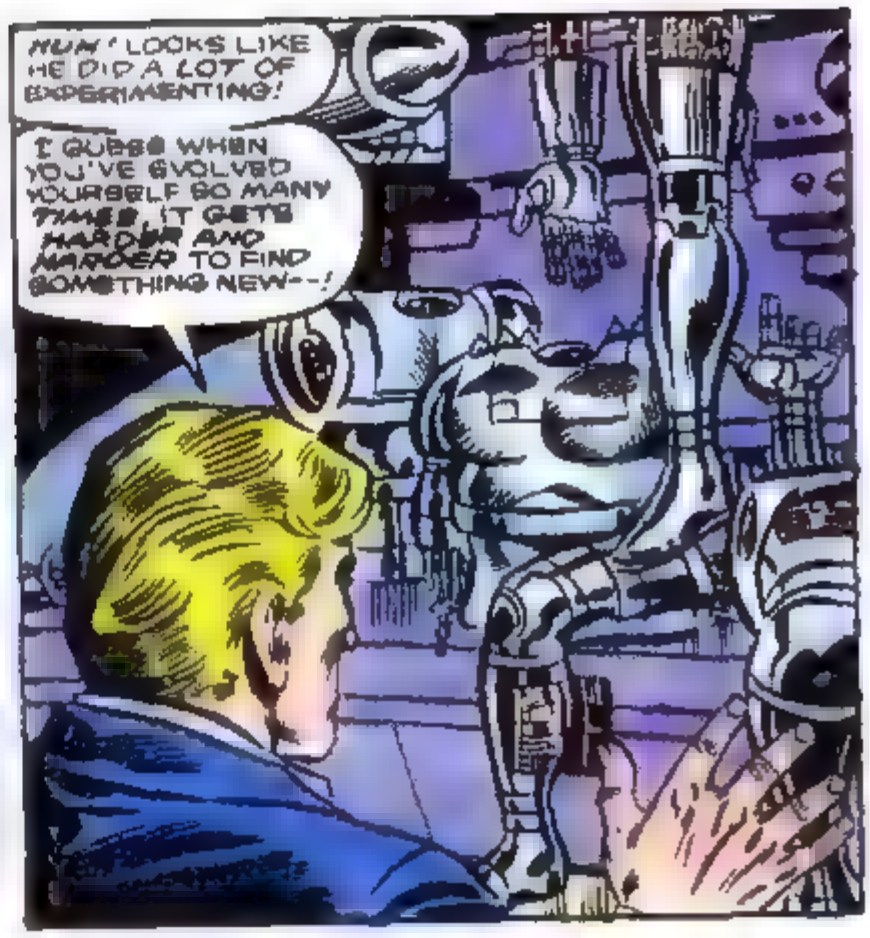
IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO ASK, THOUGH! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH SOMEONE WHO MIGHT UNDERSTAND!

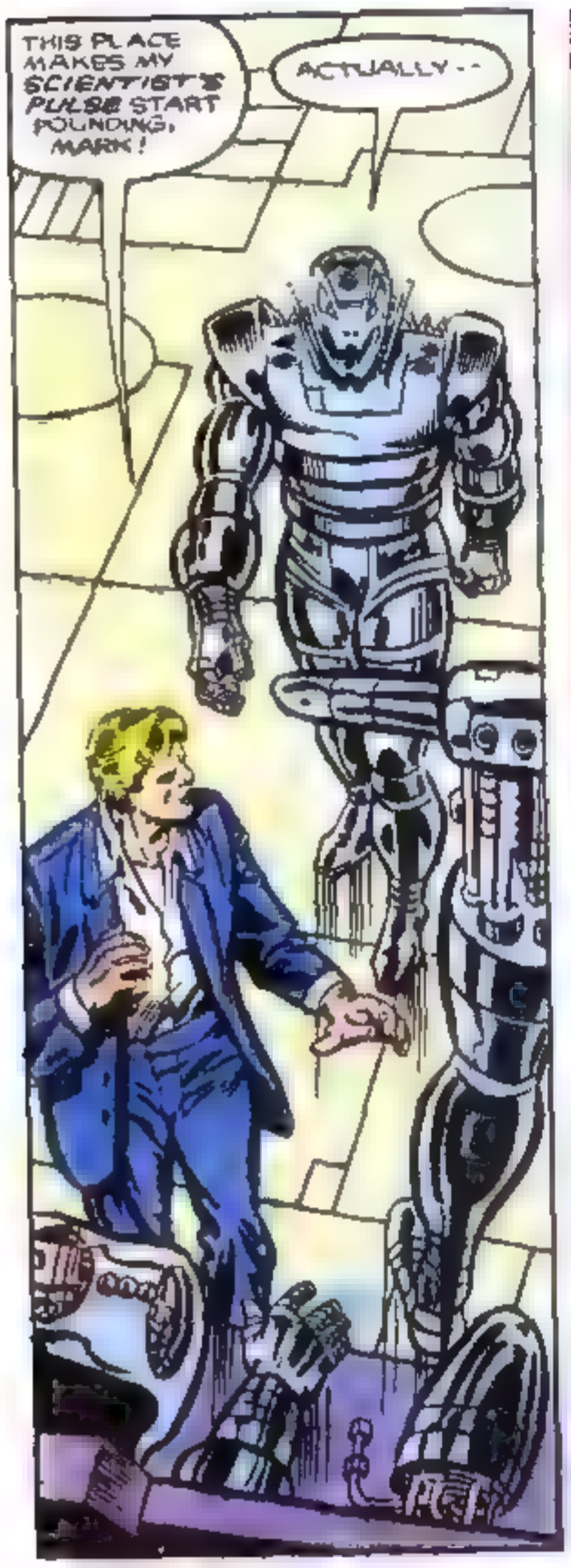
--AND THE GIRL I WAS DATING BEFORE I CAME OUT HERE ONLY KNEW WHAT I TOLD HER!

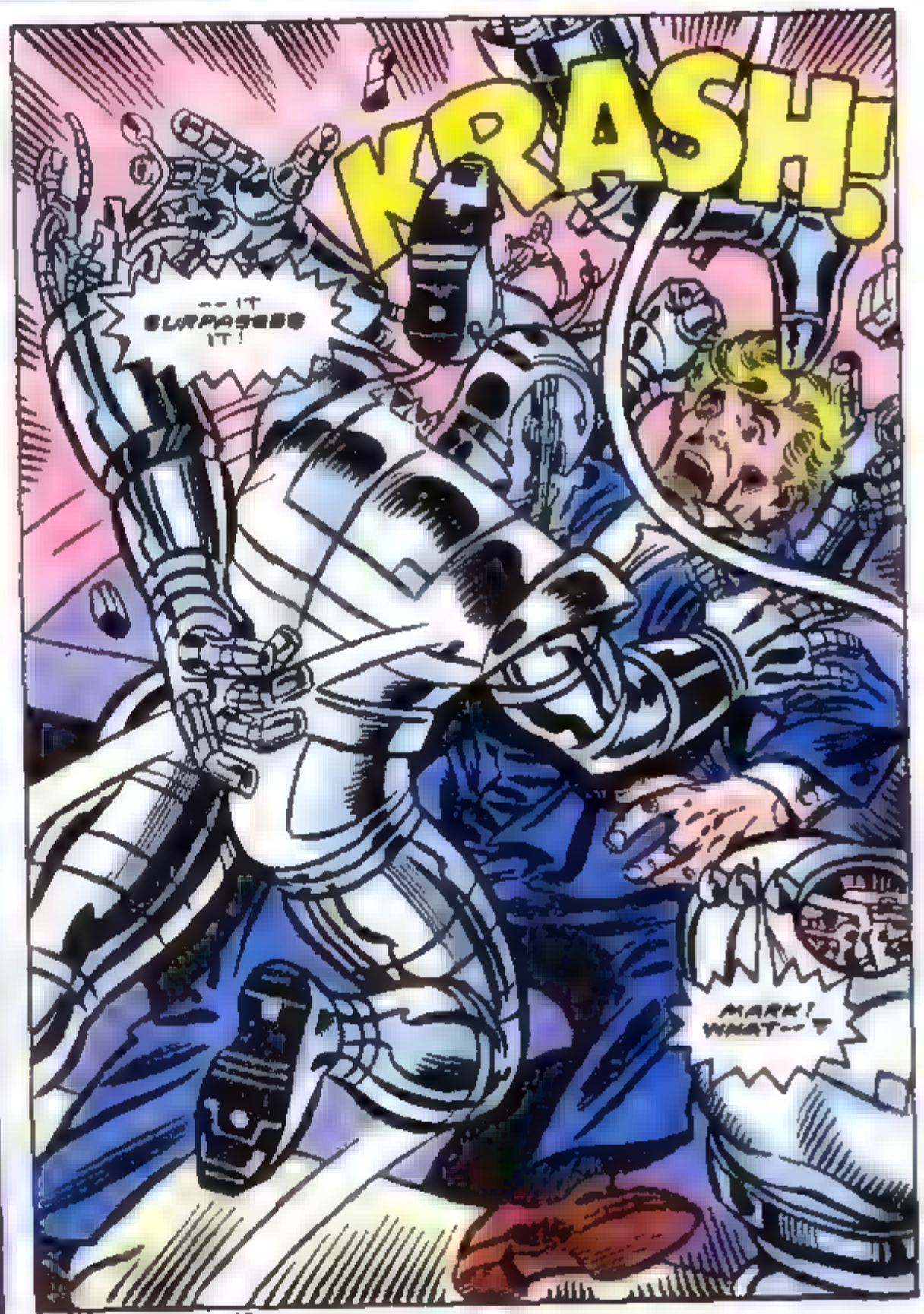
THE AVENGERS ALL HAVE TO GET PAST MEMORIES OF MY FAILURE--AND JAN'S SUCCESS AS CHAIRWOMAN OF THE EAST COAST GROUP--

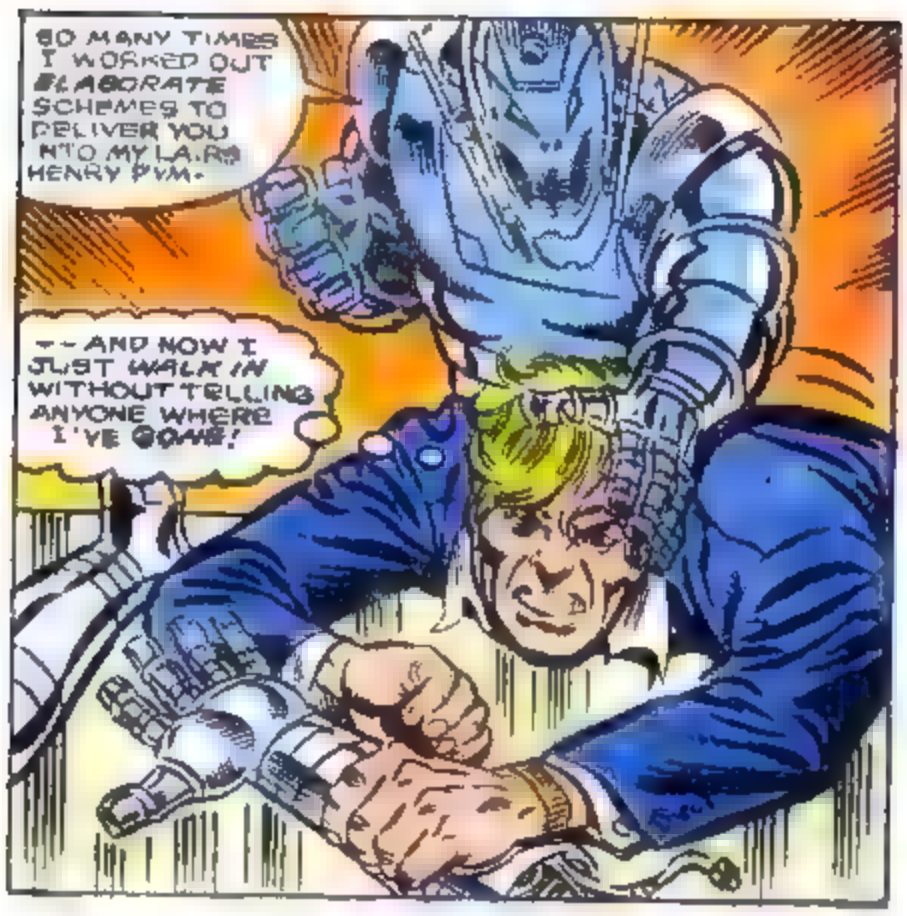
IT HELPS A LOT TO TALK LIKE THIS--!


IS THIS YOUR LAST IT'S NUMBER!
STEALING MONEY WHEN YOU NEED IT DOES HAVE ITS REWARDS--!
DON'T WORRY--I'M ONLY JOKING! JUST LET ME GET THE LIGHTS--!


HUM! LOOKS LIKE HE DID A LOT OF EXPERIMENTING!
I GUESS WHEN YOU'VE EVOLVED YOURSELF SO MANY TIMES, IT GETS HARDER AND HARDER TO FIND SOMETHING NEW--!

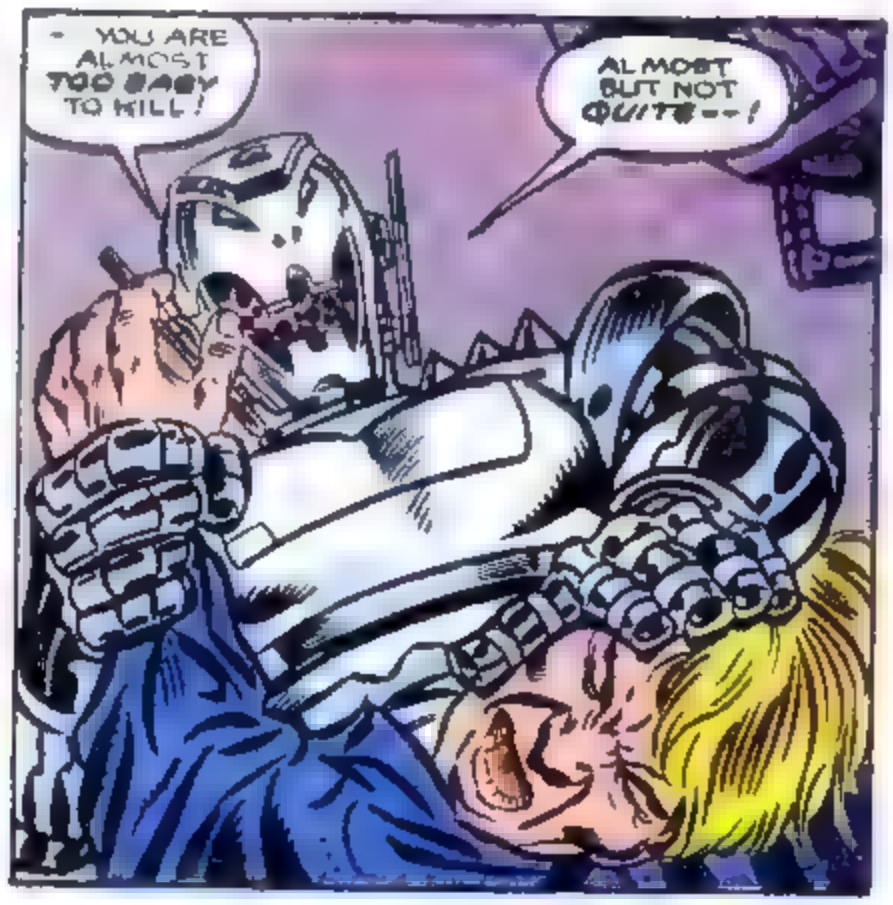

THIS PLACE MAKES MY SCIENTIST'S PULSE START POUNDING, MARK!
ACTUALLY--

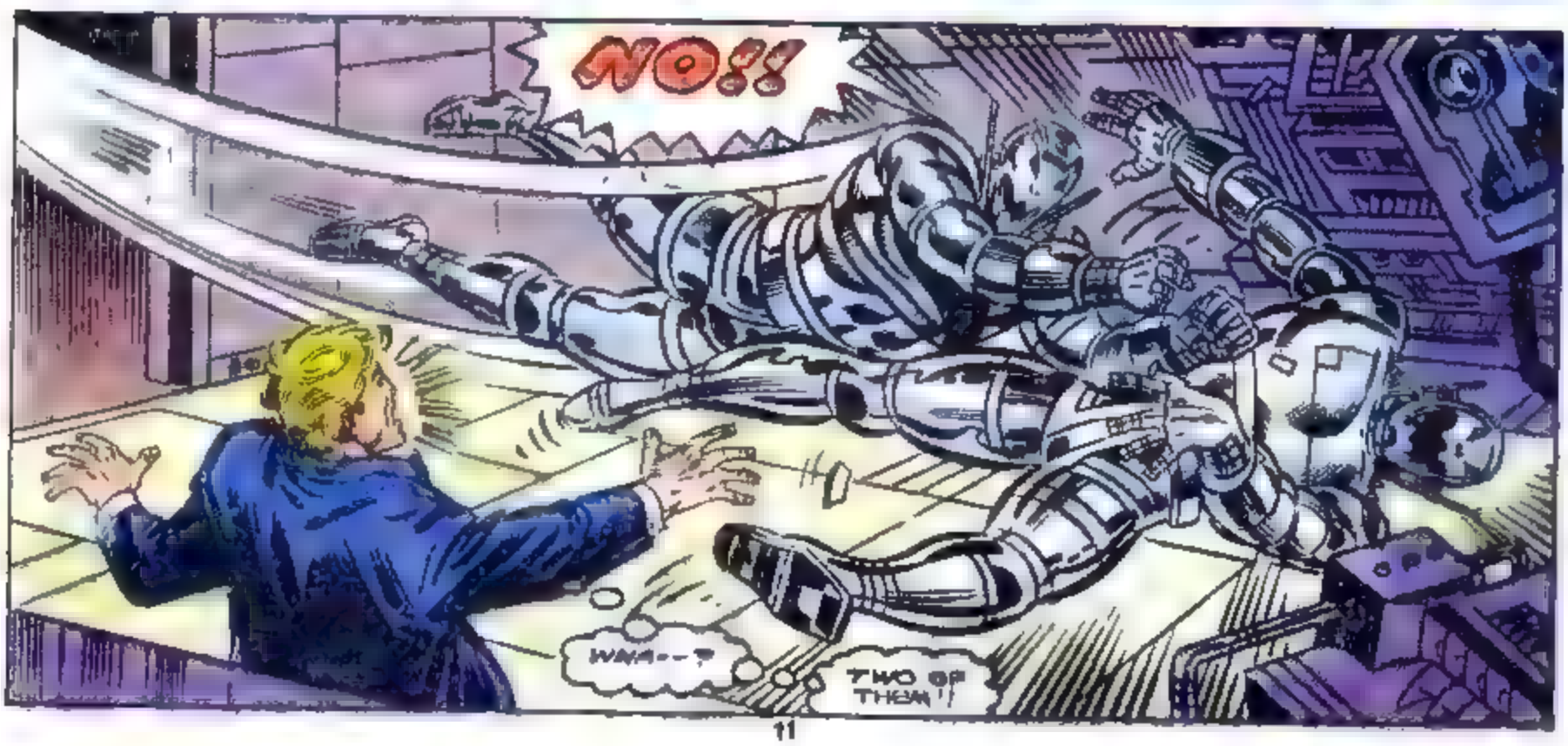

KRASH!
--IT SURPASSES IT!
MARK! WHAT--?

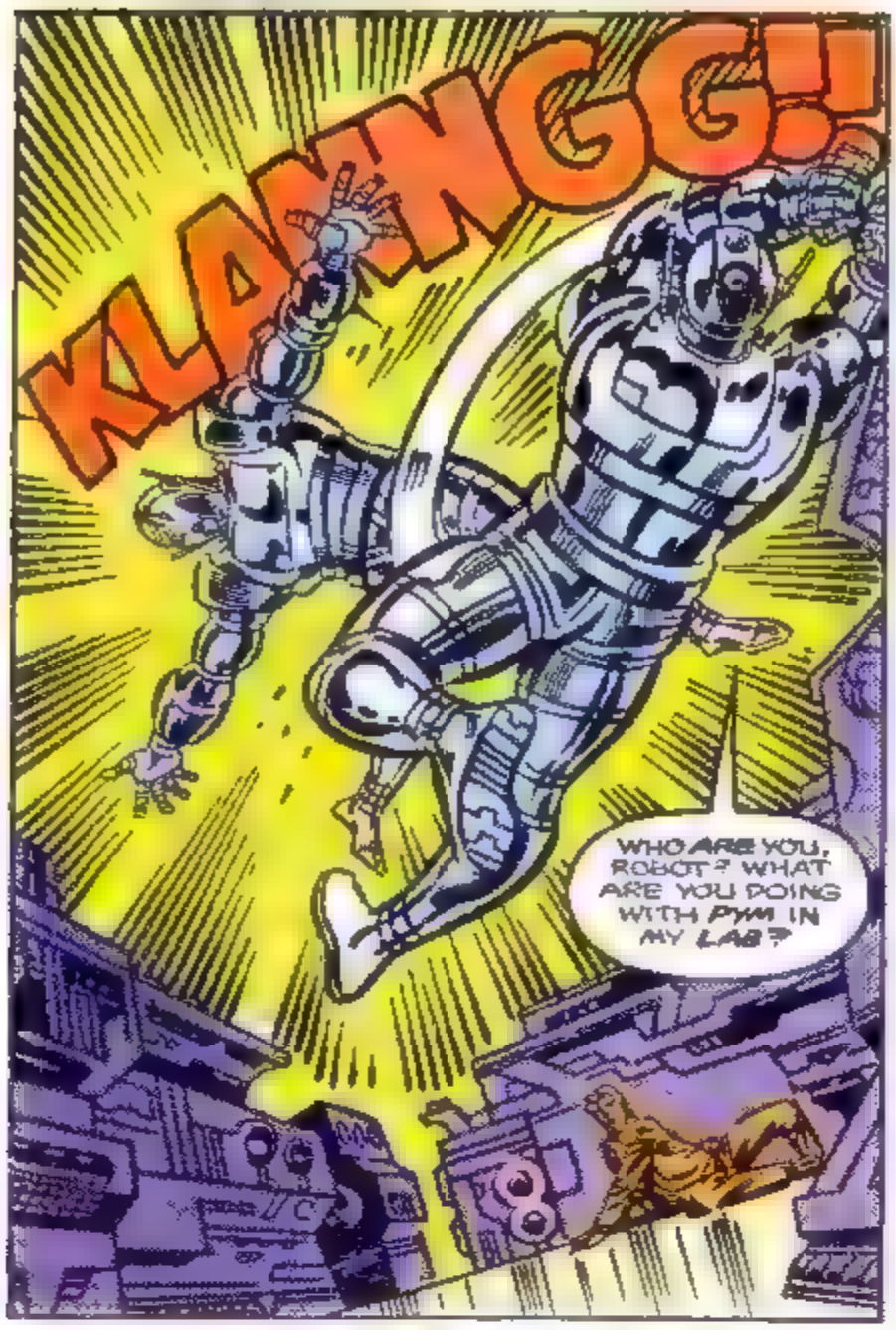

SO MANY TIMES I WORKED OUT ELABORATE SCHEMES TO DELIVER YOU INTO MY LAIR HENRY PYM.
--AND NOW I JUST WALK IN WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE WHERE I'VE GONE!

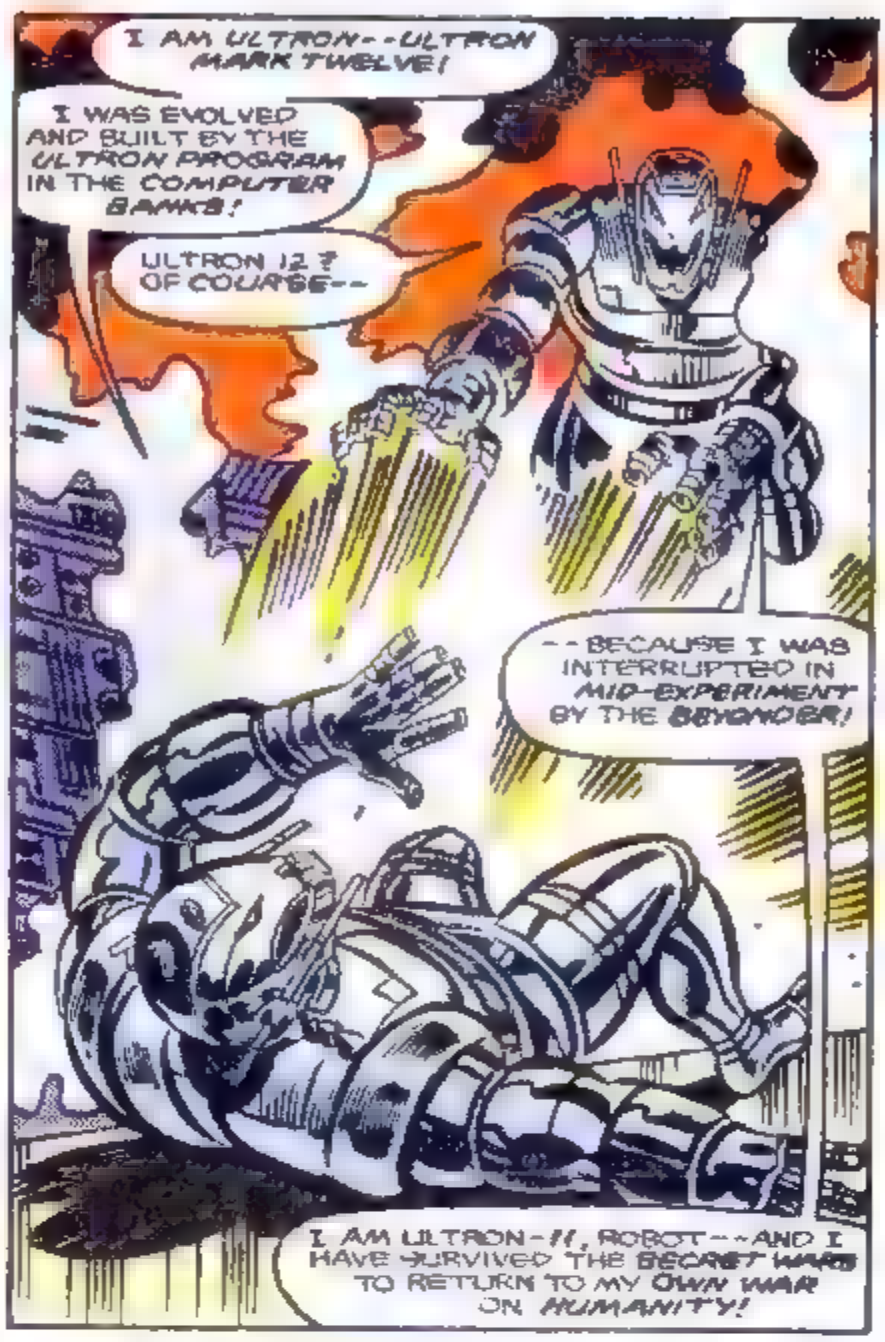
BLAST YOU, ULTRON! I'D RATHER YOU'D DONE SOMETHING ELABORATE THAN PLAY ON MY TRUST!
BUT I'VE STUDIED YOUR BODIES OVER THE YEARS--I KNOW AN OPERATIONAL CONCUSSION BLASTER WHEN I SEE IT--!

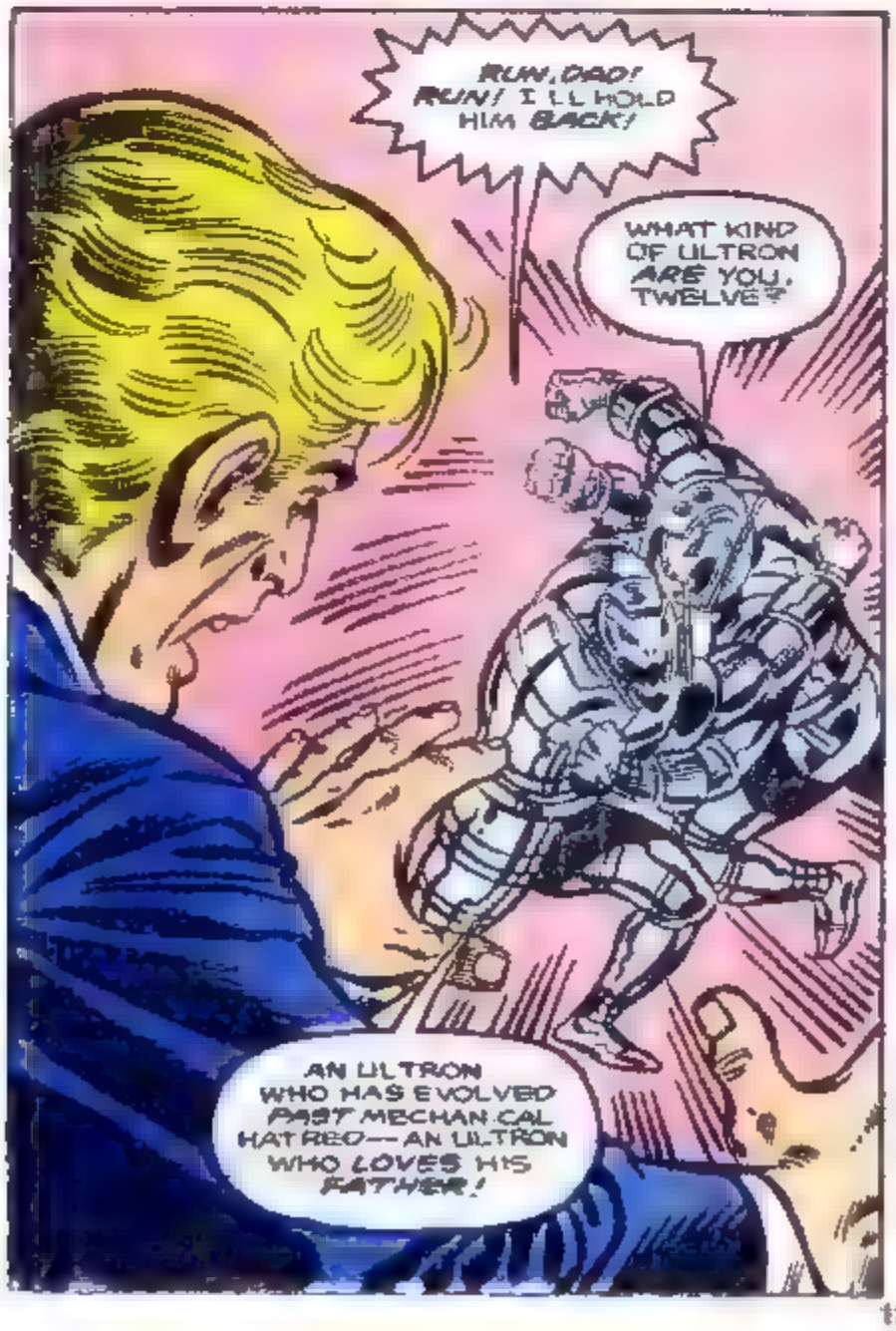
ALWAYS RESOURCEFUL, PYM! ALWAYS A FLAIR FOR THE UNEXPECTED!
BUT EVEN AS AN AVENGER, YOU LACKED THE RAW POWER TO DEFEAT ME. AND AS A CIVILIAN--
SHOOM!
ZUUUUUM!

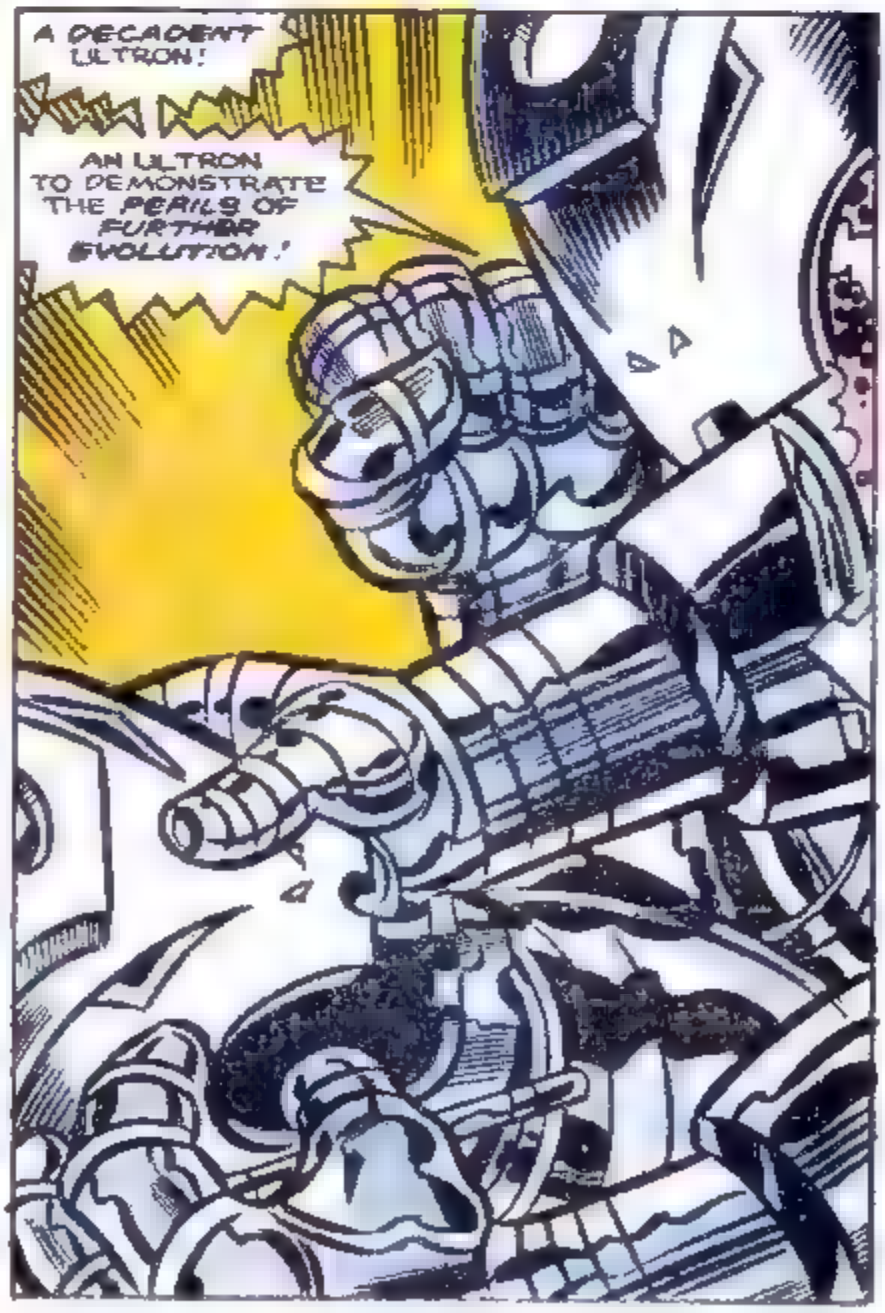

YOU ARE ALMOST TOO EASY TO KILL!
ALMOST BUT NOT QUITE--!


NO!!
WHA--?
TWO OF THEM!


KLANGG!!
WHO ARE YOU, ROBOT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH PYM IN MY LAB?


I AM ULTRON--ULTRON MARK TWELVE!
I WAS EVOLVED AND BUILT BY THE ULTRON PROGRAM IN THE COMPUTER BANKS!
ULTRON 12? OF COURSE--
--BECAUSE I WAS INTERRUPTED IN MID-EXPERIMENT BY THE BEYONDER!
I AM ULTRON-11, ROBOT--AND I HAVE SURVIVED THE SECRET WARS TO RETURN TO MY OWN WAR ON HUMANITY!


RUN, DAD! RUN! I'LL HOLD HIM BACK!
WHAT KIND OF ULTRON ARE YOU, TWELVE?
AN ULTRON WHO HAS EVOLVED PAST MECHANICAL HATRED--AN ULTRON WHO LOVES HIS FATHER!


A DECADENT ULTRON!
AN ULTRON TO DEMONSTRATE THE PERILS OF FURTHER EVOLUTION!

AN ULTRON THAT MUST CEASE TO BE!

SAVED-- SAVED FROM A DANGER WORSE THAN DESTRUCTION!

ULTRON-11 IS NOW AND FOREVER THE *ULTIMATE* ULTRON--AND TO BE CERTAIN--

--I SHALL ERASE EVERYTHING RELATING TO *ULTRON-12* IN THESE *PROGRAMS!*

NOW, PYM--NOW THE ONE WHO *LOVED* YOU HAS NEITHER BODY NOR *BRAIN*--

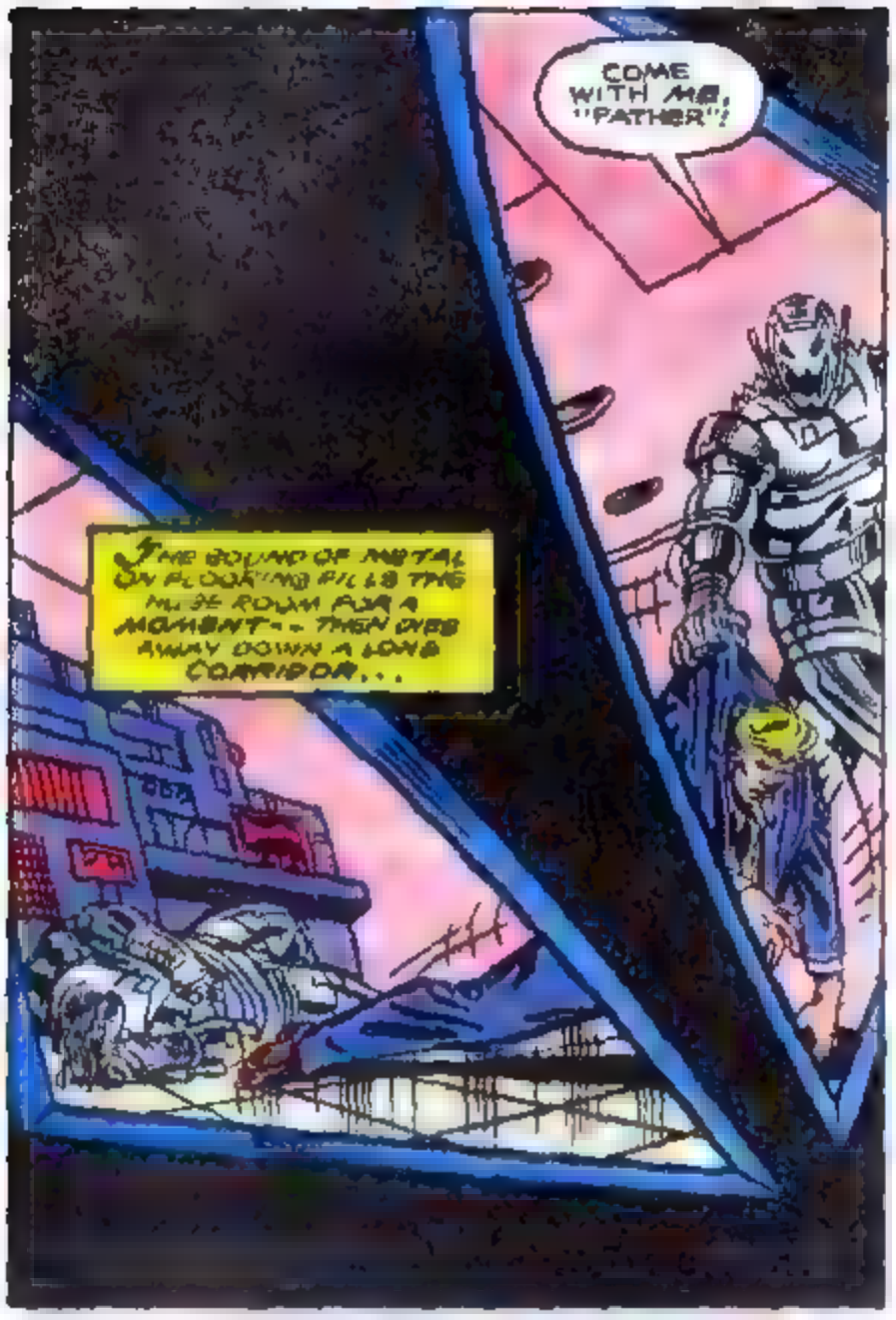
--AND HERE YOU ARE, IN *PAIN* AND IN MY *LAIR*, WHERE NO ONE WILL *BOTHER* US WHILE WE FINALLY SETTLE *ALL ACCOUNTS!*

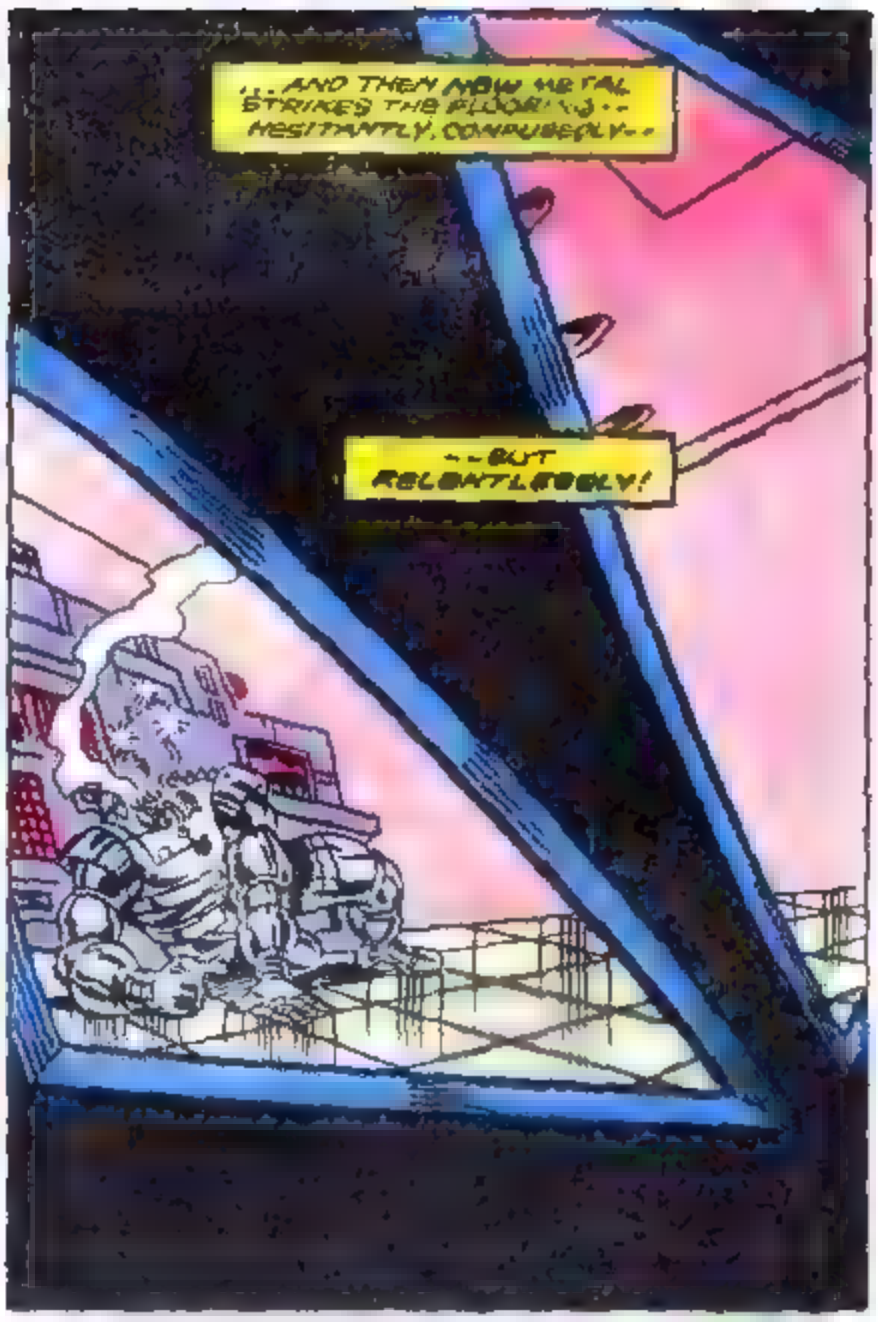
I HAVE COME A *GREAT DISTANCE* FOR THIS--FROM THE *BEYONDER'S PLANET*, THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF *NEW YORK CITY* ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN A *BOX*--

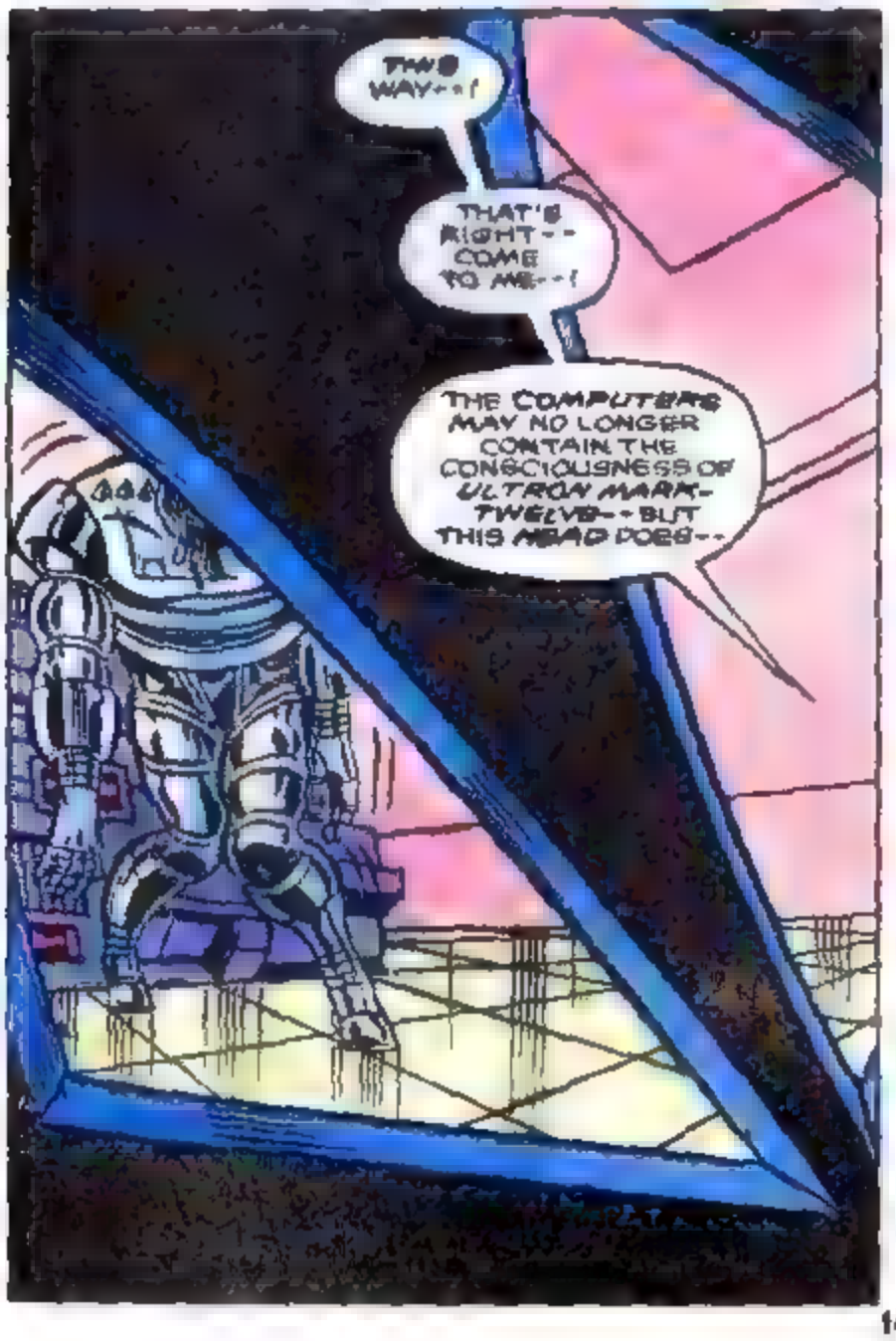
--AND LITTLE DID I *KNOW* THE *PRIZE* AWAITING ME AT THE *END!*

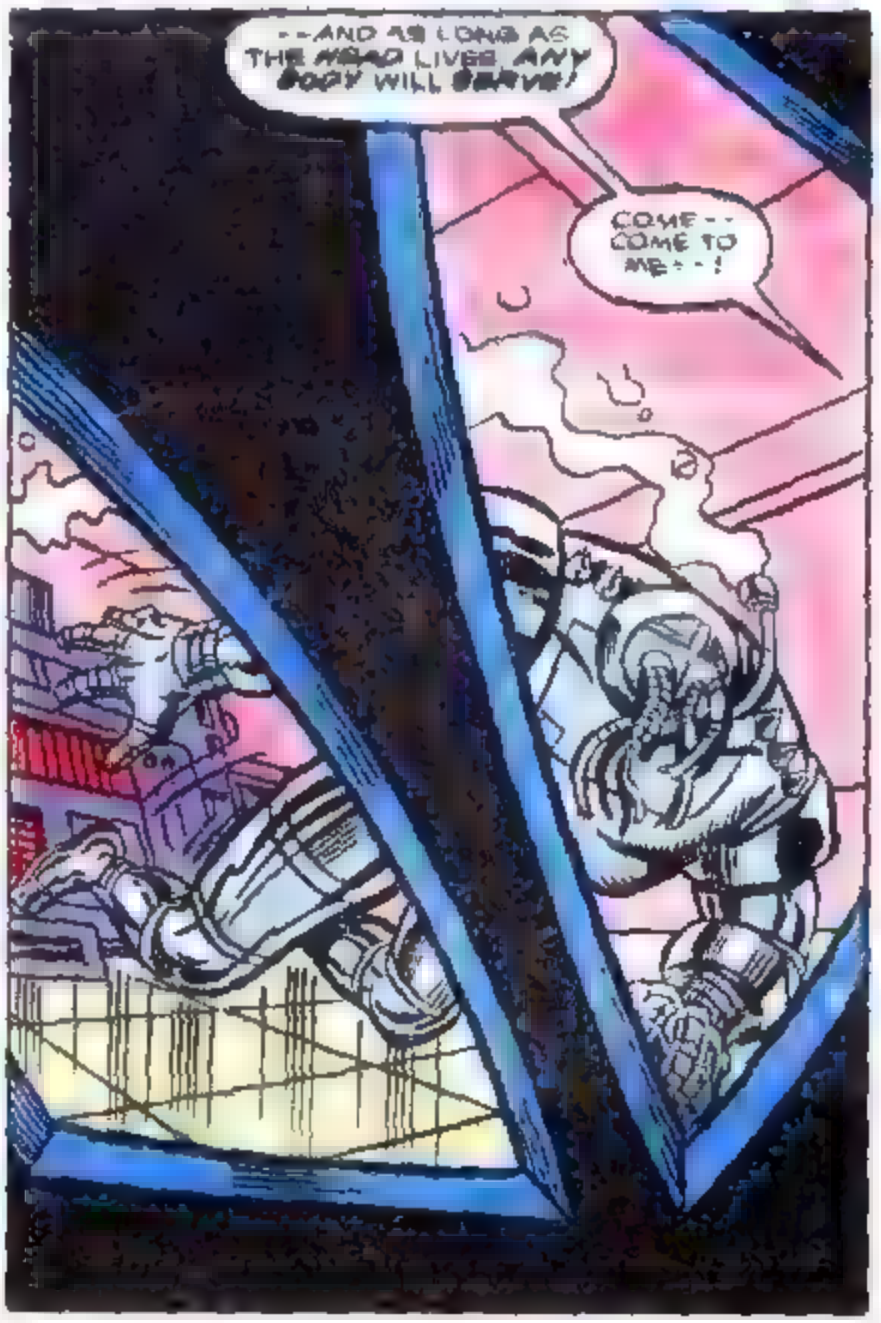
BUT NOW WE'RE *BOTH* HERE, AND NOW I SHALL DEMONSTRATE WHAT STEPHEN JONES LEVEL *SHORT* OF DEPRAVITY CAN *MEAN!*

NOW I SHALL HAVE MY SATISFACTION AT *LONG, LONG LAST*, AND *YOU* WILL LEARN THE [illegible]TION OF *CRUELTY*--!


COME WITH ME, "FATHER"!
THE SOUND OF METAL ON FLOORING FILLS THE HUGE ROOM FOR A MOMENT-- THEN DIES AWAY DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR...


...AND THEN NOW METAL STRIKES THE FLOOR!--HESITANTLY, CONFUSEDLY--
--BUT RELENTLESSLY!


THIS WAY--!
THAT'S RIGHT-- COME TO ME--!
THE COMPUTERS MAY NO LONGER CONTAIN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF ULTRON MARK-TWELVE--BUT THIS HEAD DOES--


--AND AS LONG AS THE HEAD LIVES ANY BODY WILL SERVE!
COME-- COME TO ME--!

AND ELSEWHERE IN THIS SAVAGE LAND, BLACK SILENCE BROODS UPON THE PLAGUE-RIDDEN RUINS OF KETHUL BAGS NOR ..

YOU DARED TO TRIFLE WITH THE QUEEN OF BAGLES, ARKON -- BUT I, HER PRIEST FOR ALL ETERNITY, SHALL HAVE YOUR BEATING HEART FOR MYSELF!

NOT SO, NECROMANCER, WHAT ARE ROPES TO A TELEMACHAN?

BUT THIS CANNOT BE --

-- AND SHALL NOT BE, IF AN EON OF ENSLAVEMENT TO BAGLES MEANS ANYTHING!

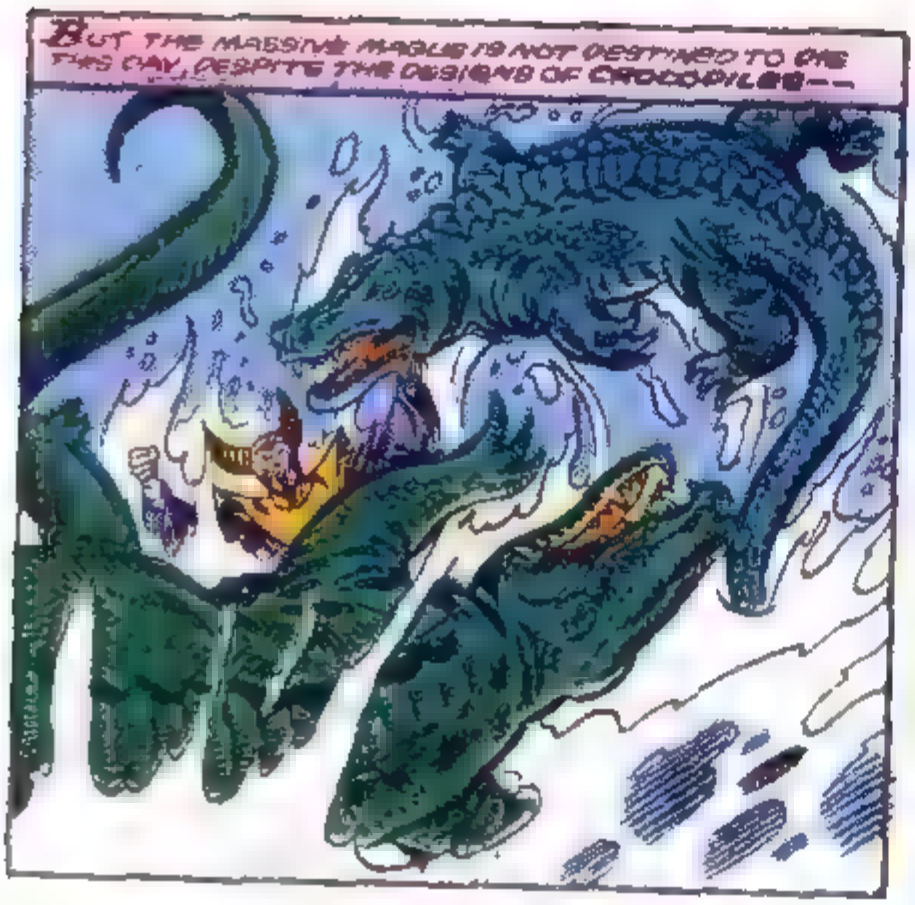
ENSLAVEMENT? THE WORD RINGS HARSHLY IN MY EARS, PRIEST --

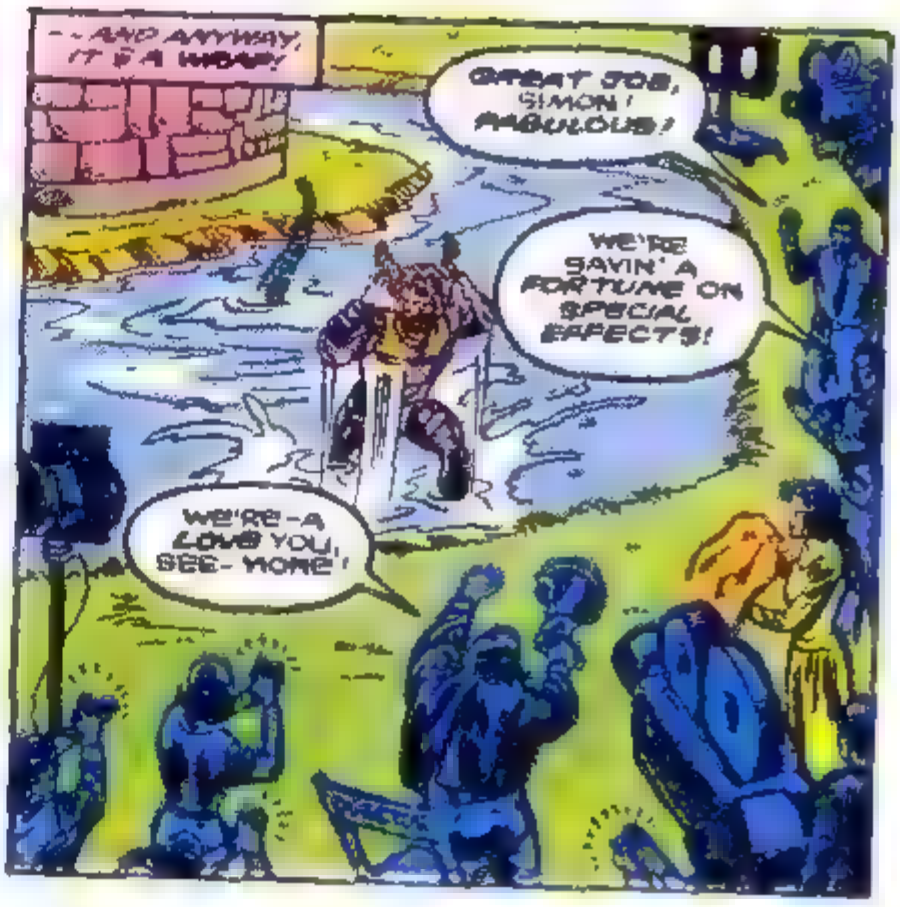
-- MORE HARSHLY THAN ALL THE STORMS OF THE NORTHLANDS --

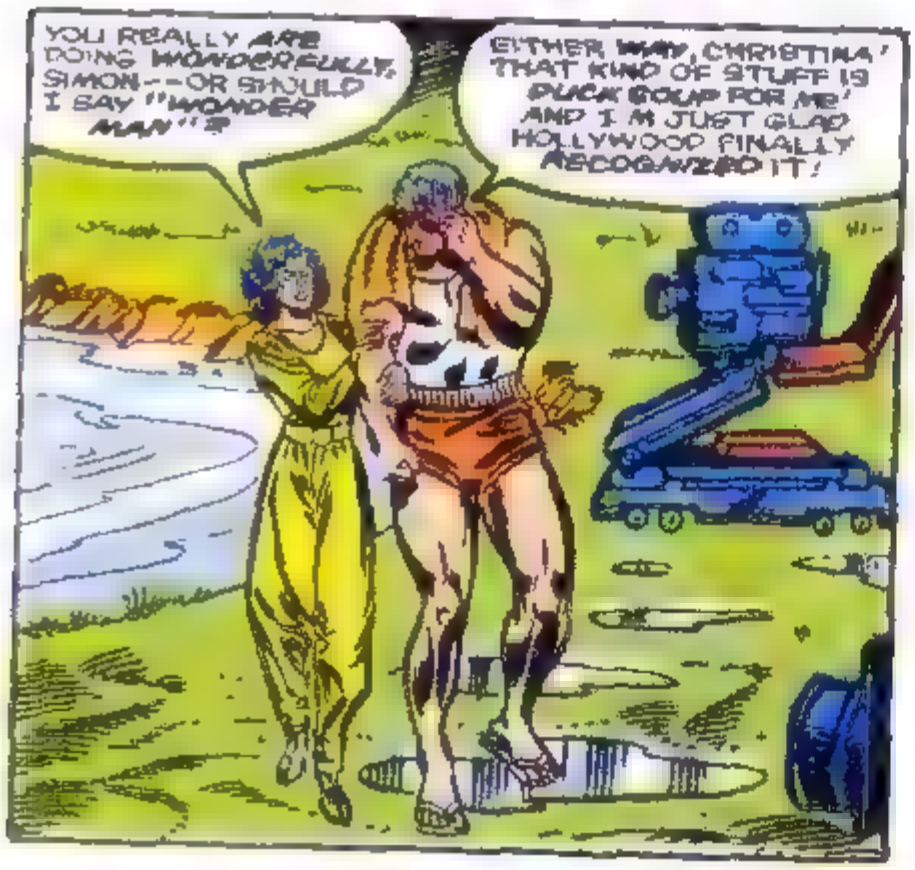
-- WHICH TAUGHT US BARBARIANS OF FREEDOM!

NO! NO!!

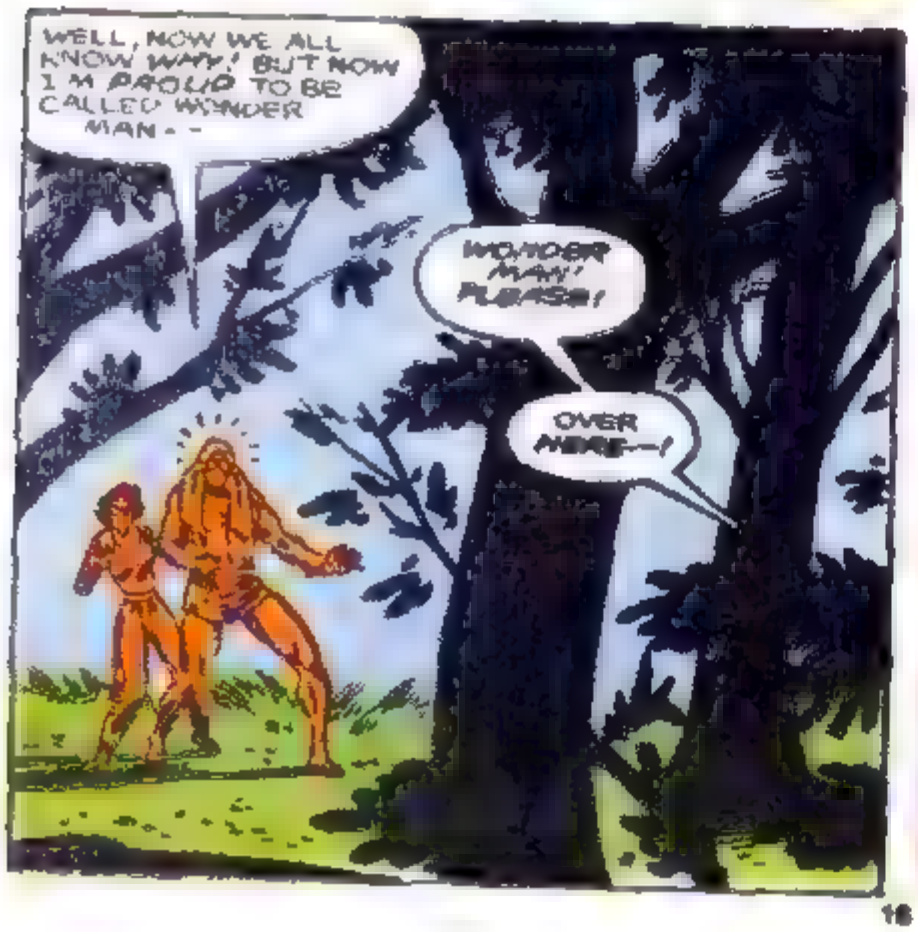
AAAAAAA


BUT THE MASSIVE MAGUS IS NOT DESTINED TO DIE THIS DAY, DESPITE THE DESIGNS OF CROCODILES--


--AND ANYWAY, IT'S A WRAP!
GREAT JOB, SIMON! FABULOUS!
WE'RE SAVIN' A FORTUNE ON SPECIAL EFFECTS!
WE'RE-A LOVE YOU, SEE-MORE!

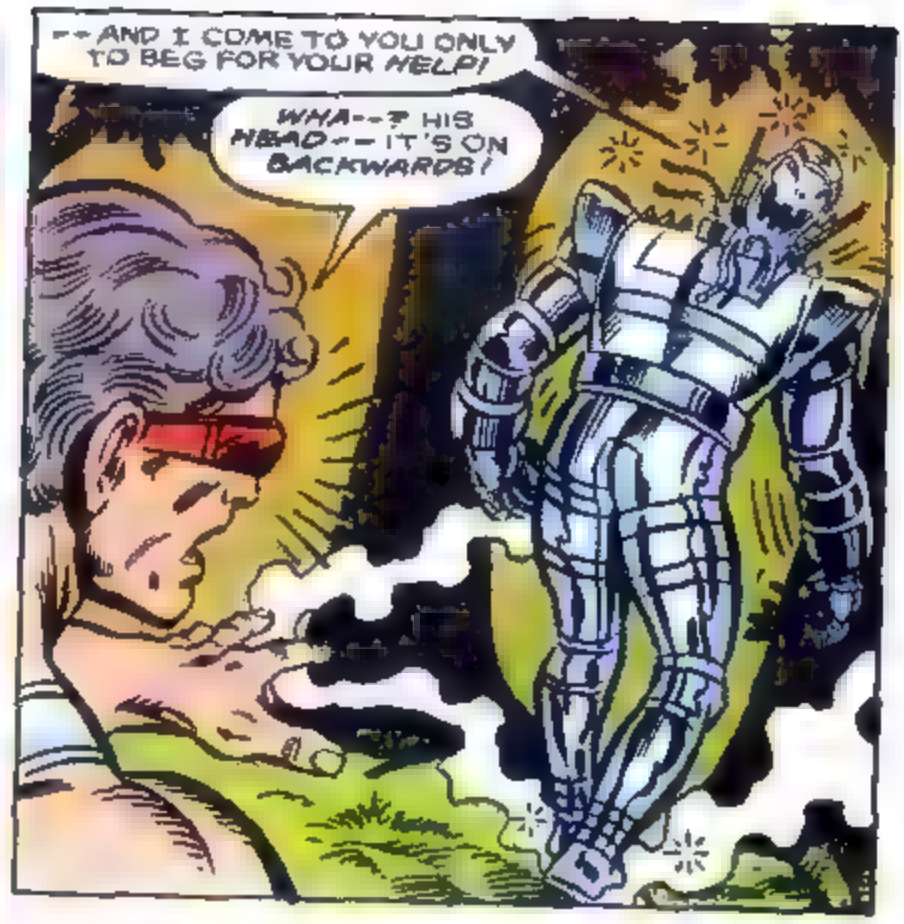

YOU REALLY ARE DOING WONDERFULLY, SIMON--OR SHOULD I SAY "WONDER MAN"?
EITHER WAY, CHRISTINA! THAT KIND OF STUFF IS DUCK SOUP FOR ME! AND I'M JUST GLAD HOLLYWOOD FINALLY RECOGNIZED IT!

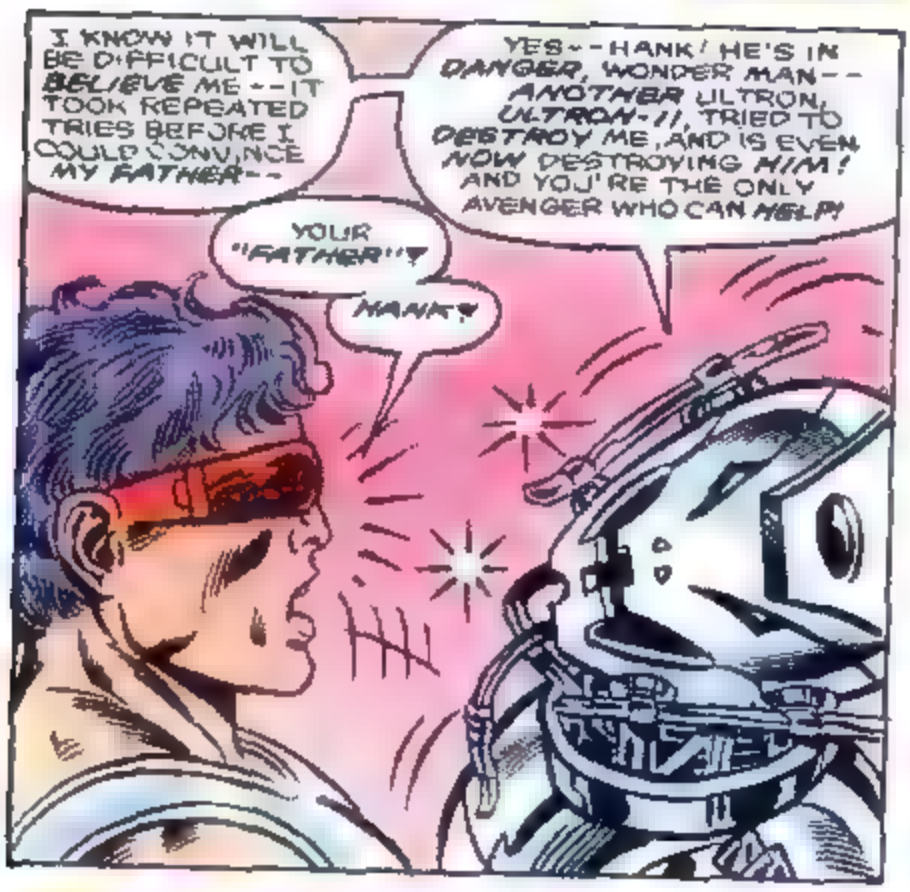
EVERYTHING'S GOING MY WAY AT LAST! MORE THAN EVER, I KNOW I DID RIGHT BY OWNING UP TO MY CRIMINAL PAST!
LYING ALL THOSE YEARS MADE THINGS SO MUCH WORSE THAN THE TRUTH COULD EVER HAVE DONE!
YOU DO SEEM SO MUCH MORE VITAL THAN YOU DID REPORTS I SAW BEFORE YOU CAME TO WORK FOR US!
BEFORE, YOU ALWAYS LOOKED... ASHAMED TO BE WITH THE AVENGERS!


WELL, NOW WE ALL KNOW WHY! BUT NOW I'M PROUD TO BE CALLED WONDER MAN--
WONDER MAN! PLEASE!
OVER HERE--!

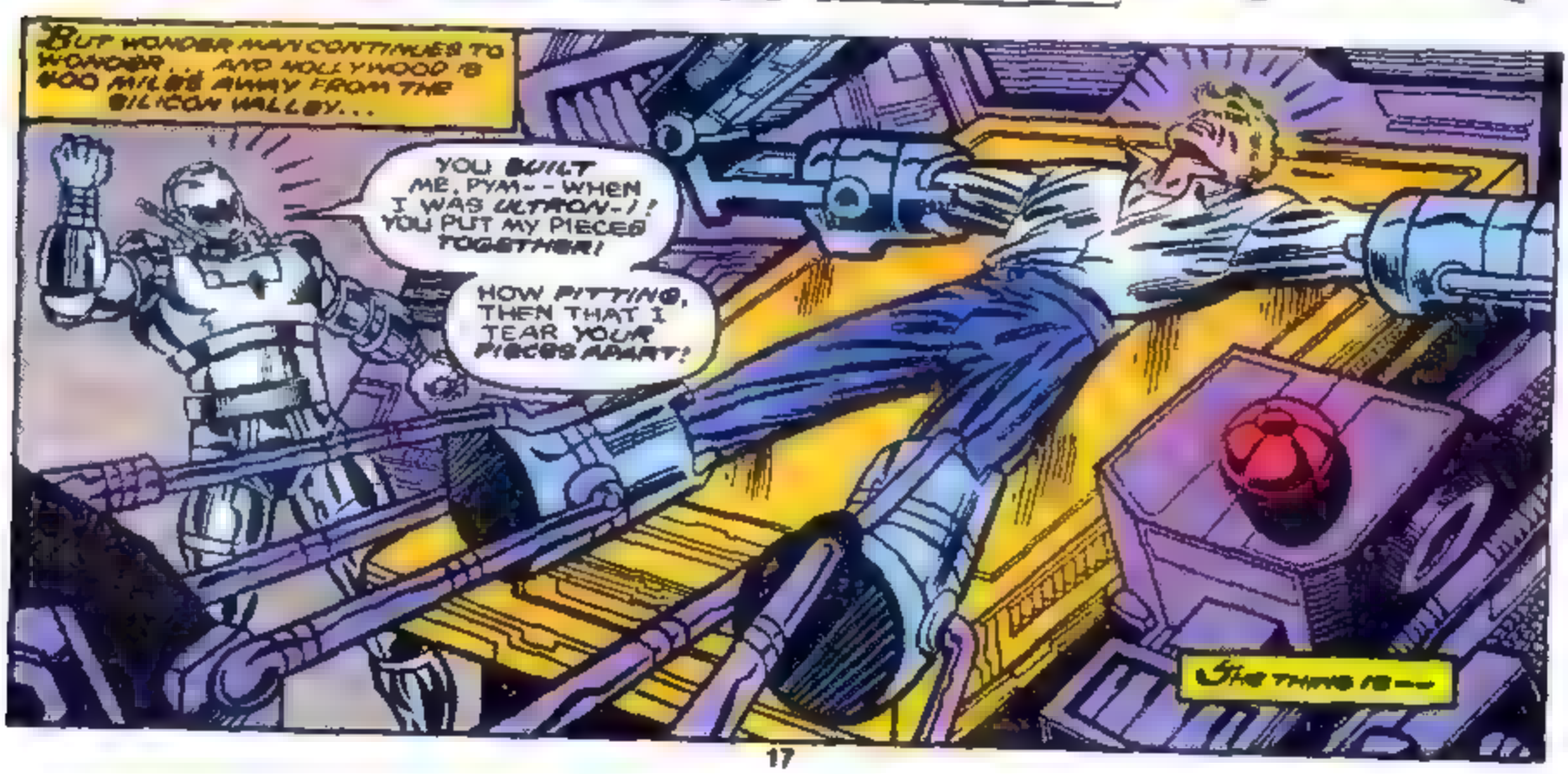
GOOD LORD!
ULTRON!

GET BACK, CHRISTINA! THIS IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT I'VE EVER FACED, AND IT'S NOT MAKE-BELIEVE!
NO, WONDER MAN, PLEASE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
I AM A NEW ULTRON -- ULTRON MARK TWELVE--


--AND I COME TO YOU ONLY TO BEG FOR YOUR HELP!
WHA--? HIS HEAD--IT'S ON BACKWARDS!


I KNOW IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE ME--IT TOOK REPEATED TRIES BEFORE I COULD CONVINCE MY FATHER--
YES--HANK! HE'S IN DANGER, WONDER MAN--ANOTHER ULTRON, ULTRON-11, TRIED TO DESTROY ME, AND IS EVEN NOW DESTROYING HIM! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY AVENGER WHO CAN HELP!
YOUR "FATHER"?
HANK?

ANOTHER ULTRON--? THE ONE WHO FOUGHT ME AND THE VISION?
NO--THAT WAS ME! BUT I'VE CHANGED, WONDER MAN--REPENTED! I'VE FORCED MYSELF TO FLY TO YOU--!
THAT IS HARD TO BELIEVE--!
I KNOW IT IS--BUT YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, MUST KNOW THAT A MAN CAN CHANGE--!


BUT WONDER MAN CONTINUES TO WONDER... AND HOLLYWOOD IS 400 MILES AWAY FROM THE SILICON VALLEY...
YOU BUILT ME, PYM--WHEN I WAS ULTRON-1! YOU PUT MY PIECES TOGETHER!
HOW FITTING, THEN THAT I TEAR YOUR PIECES APART!
THE THING IS--

ONCE HE MAKES UP HIS MIND, WONDER MAN'S BELT-JETS DEVOUR DISTANCE!

AND WONDER MAN HIMSELF LAUGHS AT WALLS!

KA-RUMP!

WHAT'S THIS--?

AH--!

THE ONE WHO FEARS ME!

YOU MADE A SUPERHUMAN EFFORT TO OVERCOME THAT FEAR ONCE, WONDER MAN,* BUT I DOUBT YOU CAN DO IT TWICE!

* AVENGERS #162.

YOU'RE OUT OF TOUCH, ROBOT! I'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEN!

HE LAUGHS AT MORE THAN WALLS NOW--

--AND DRAWS AN ANSWERING SNARL!

HE WAS AFRAID ONCE. AND TRUTH TO TELL, HE STILL IS--

--BUT HE'S GOT THE MONKEY OFF HIS BACK NOW! HE CAN CONTROL HIS FEAR, BECAUSE HE LOOKED IT IN THE EYE AND SAW THAT IT WAS LESS THAN HE IS!
KRUMP!

KLOK!

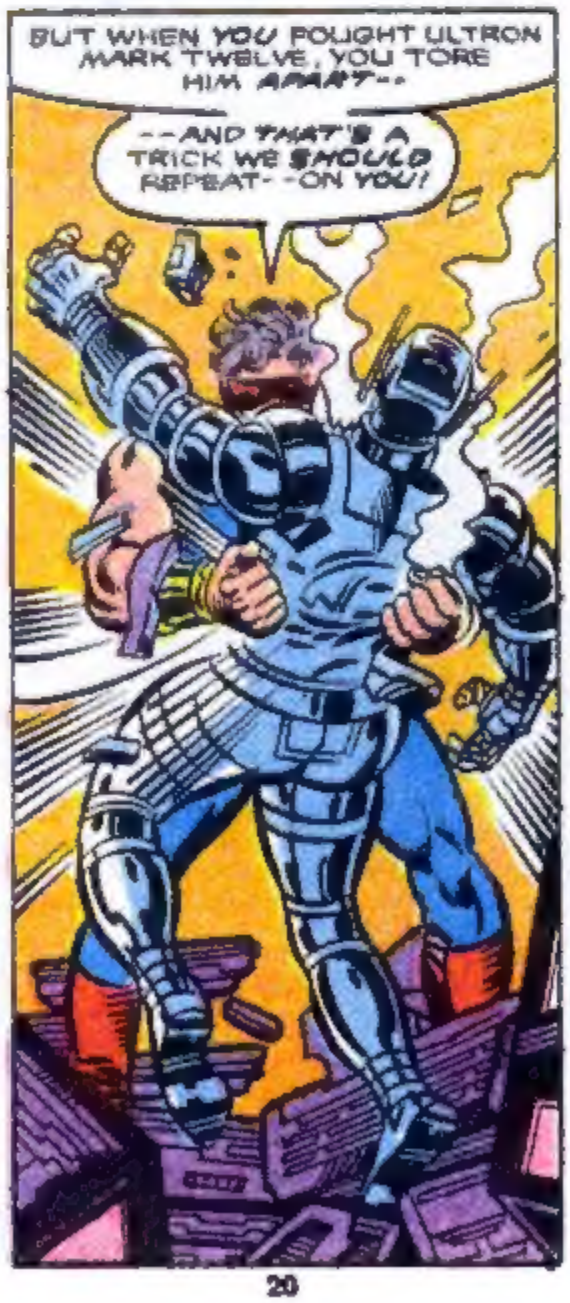
WUMB-BA!

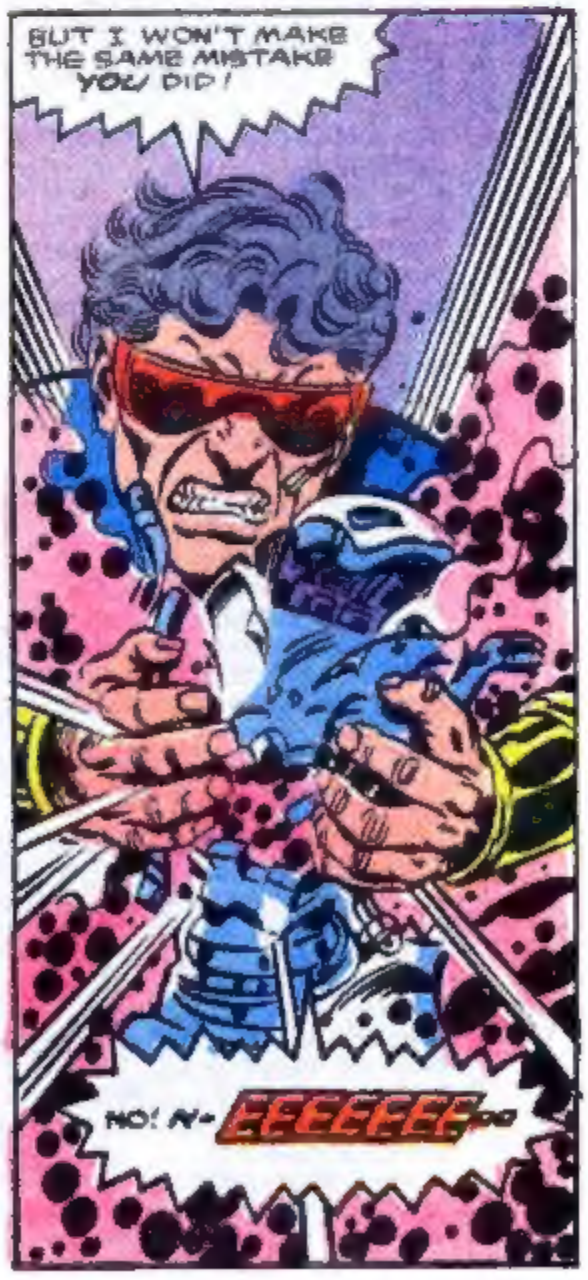
TONS OF MACHINERY SHALL BE YOUR TOMB, AVENGER!
NO MAN MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD CAN BEST THE POWER OF ULTRON-III!

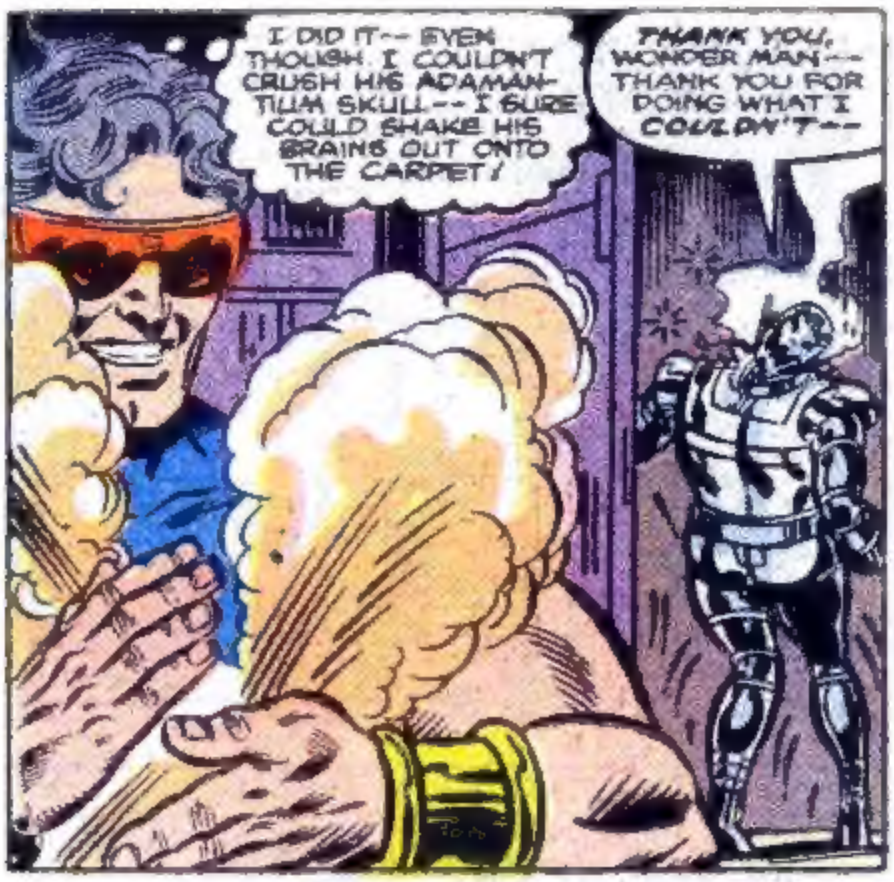
BUT I'M NOT FLESH AND BLOOD, ROBOT!
FEAR IS JUST AN EMOTION, ONE OF MANY KNOWN TO MAN--
--AND HE'S MORE THAN MAN!

He's WONDER MAN!

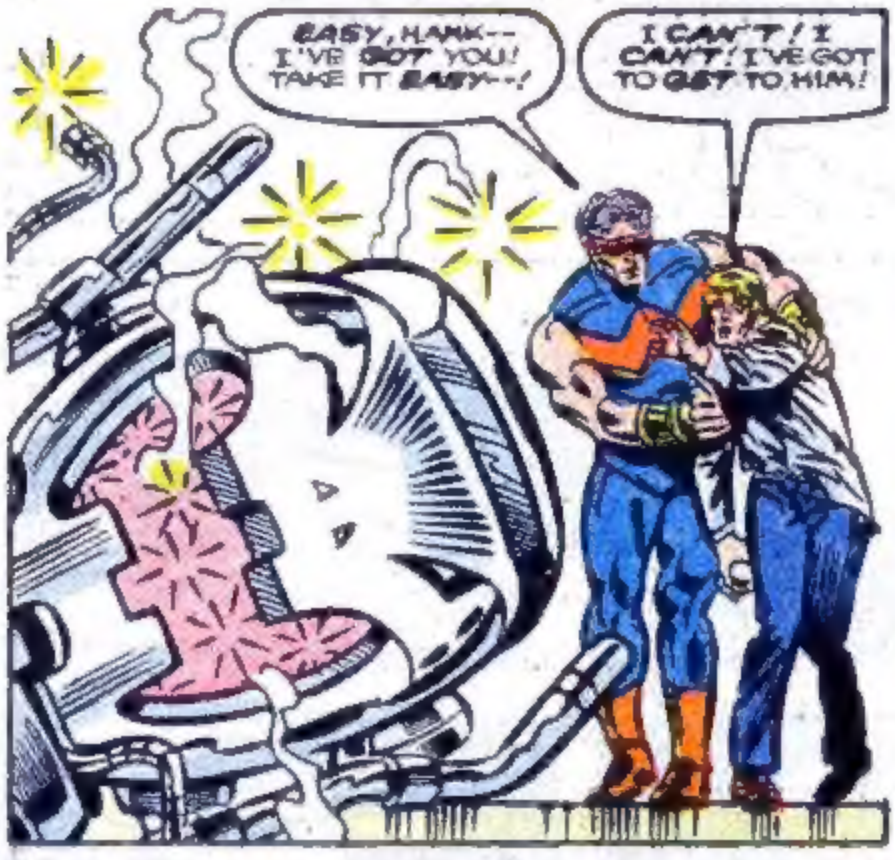
SHABADOOM!






I DID IT-- EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T CRUSH HIS ADAMANTIUM SKULL-- I SURE COULD SHAKE HIS BRAINS OUT ONTO THE CARPET!
THANK YOU, WONDER MAN-- THANK YOU FOR DOING WHAT I COULDN'T--

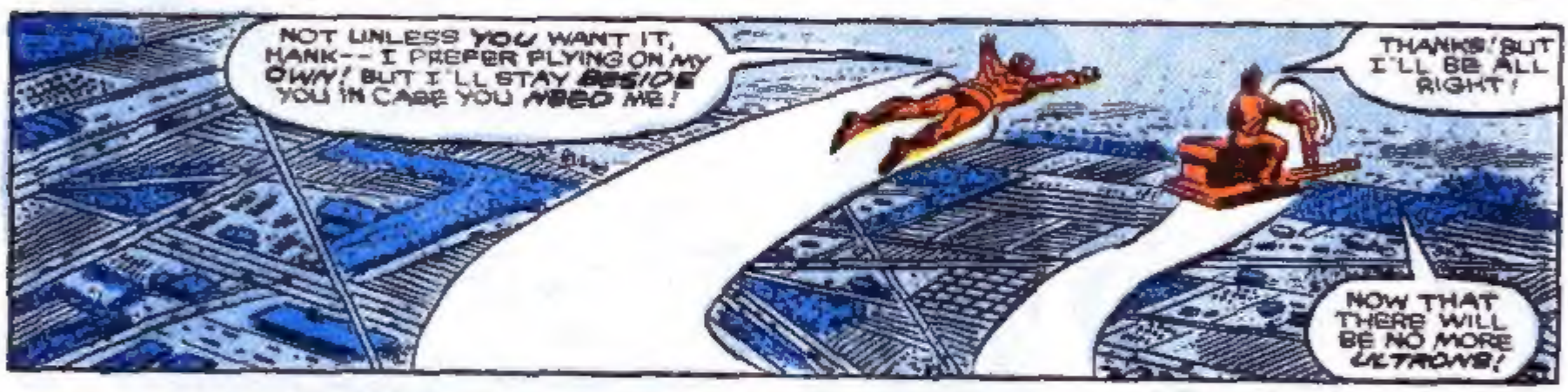
--SAVING MY DAD!
MARK!
GET ME OFF HERE, SIMON!
KLANG!

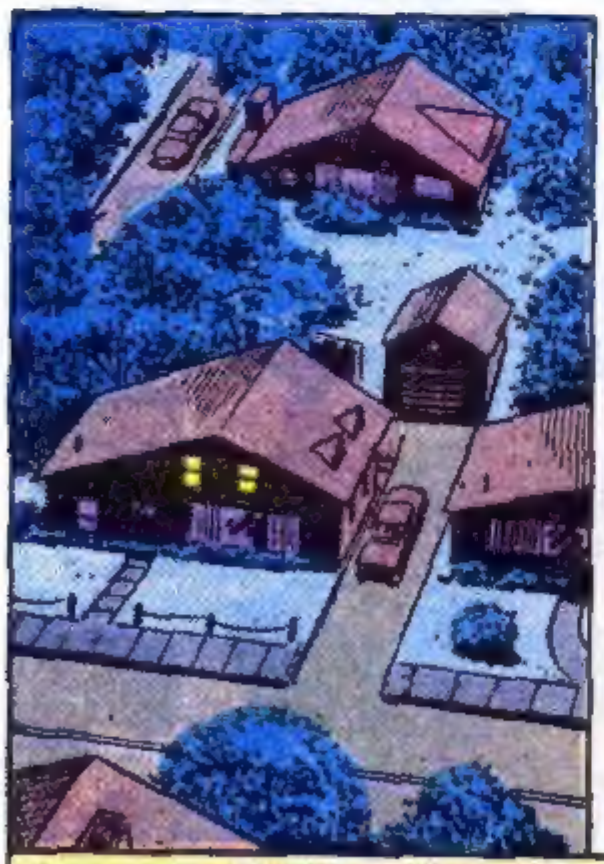

EASY, HANK-- I'VE GOT YOU! TAKE IT EASY--!
I CAN'T! I CAN'T! I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM!

MARK! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
I WILL BE, SOON! I'M NOT CONNECTED RIGHT-- I COULDN'T DIRECT MY HANDS WELL ENOUGH WHEN THEY ATTACHED MY HEAD!
THEN I'LL DO IT! TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE! BUT THE FAULTY CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN SHORT-CIRCUITING--DRAWING ME, AND FUSING ME--

--BUT WE SAVED YOU, DIDN'T WE?
I'M JUST SORRY YOU HAVE TO BE ALONE AFTER I--

HIS POWER'S GONE, HANK!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, SIMON!
HE'S DEAD!
MY SON IS DEAD...!





NEXT: THE RETURN OF THE RANGERS!